

THE ZOATH YOST FAMILY OF PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

by

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The Zoath Yost Family of Pontiac, Illinois

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Foreword

Zoath Yost was born and raised in West Virginia. He completed college and obtained a law degree from West Virginia University. Zoath married Pontiac native Ella Louise Hartshorn in 1890. Ella Hartshorn graduated from Pontiac Township High School and then attended several colleges. In 1898, Zoath and Ella Yost built their home on the Vermilion River at 298 West Water Street in Pontiac.

Zoath and Ella Yost had three children. The oldest child, Hellene Louise Yost, graduated from Pontiac Township High School. Hellene Yost received a bachelor's degree in Greek from Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Virginia, and a master's degree in English from the University of Chicago. Early in her career, Miss Yost taught at Pontiac High School and Rivesville, West Virginia, High School. Hellene Yost spent most of her adult life reading many books and giving book reviews to various Pontiac groups.

The middle child, Catherine Virginia Yost, graduated from Pontiac Township High School. She attended Randolph-Macon Woman's College at Lynchburg, Va., the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts for a term and the Art Institute of Chicago for two years. One of her classmates at Randolph-Macon Woman's College was Pearl Buck, a famous author who won the Nobel and Pulitzer Prizes in Literature. Catharine Yost was an early member of the Amitytown Society of Painters. Catharine Yost spent her adult life painting.

The youngest child, J. Paul Yost, graduated from Pontiac Township High School. Mr. Yost was a 1920 graduate of the University of Chicago with a degree in Philosophy. He then obtained a law degree at West Virginia University. While in law school, Paul Yost joined a traveling group of students who put on plays in various West Virginia cities. Mr. Yost then worked doing Broadway plays for several years. He also toured Europe to learn about how Europeans designed and presented their plays. Mr. Yost spent his adult life either directing or acting in various local plays. He also created artistic works as a member of the Amitytown Painters Society.

For over four decades, the Yost House and Zoath Yost's three children were the cultural and artistic hub of the Pontiac area. These three children never married and they all lived in the Yost House. The last child to die, Paul Yost, left the house to the City of Pontiac. The Livingston County Historical Society manages the house as a museum.

The Yost House is a historical treasure because the house and furnishings are almost identical to the condition of the house when it was first built in 1898. Two generations of the Yost family saved all of their possessions and they are featured in the house today.

This book focuses on the history of the Yost family and their home at 298 West Water Street. It is hoped this book will help to inform future generations about the history of the Yost family and their impact on the cultural development of Pontiac.

Acknowledgments

Many thanks go to the Livingston County Historical Society for allowing access to the Yost House and the records of the historical society.

Personnel at the Livingston County Law & Justice Center were very helpful with finding and making copies of the Wills & Last Testaments of the Yost family members.

Thanks go to the current docents at the Yost House, including Mark Osman and Bob Sear, for reviewing and offering suggestions for the book manuscript. Bob Sear is also the Managing Trustee of the J. Paul Yost Trust.

Thanks also go to Ronald Fellheimer, Secretary of the J. Paul Yost Trust, for reviewing the manuscript.

Thanks also go to Amy Necheles for reviewing the manuscript. Amy lived in the Yost House and was the curator for several years.

Tom Ewing also reviewed the book manuscript and offered improvement suggestions.

Thanks also go to Jonni Myers Kettman for reviewing the manuscript and offering suggestions for improving the book. She is one of the volunteer docents for the Yost House.

CHAPTER 1

Book Design

There are four primary historical reference books used whenever research is performed about Livingston County, Illinois.

1878 History Book

The earliest published reference to Livingston County, Illinois history is William Le Baron's 1878 book titled *The History of Livingston County, Illinois*. This book will be called the 1878 history book in future references. There are no citations in this book referring to the Zoath Yost family of Pontiac.

1888 History Book

The 1888 history book titled *Portrait and Biographical Album of Livingston County* by Chapman Brothers is the second Livingston County history book. This book will be called the 1888 history book in future references. There are no citations in this book referring to the Zoath Yost family of Pontiac.

1900 History Book

The 1900 history book titled *The Biographical Record of Livingston and Woodford Counties* by S. J. Clarke is the third Livingston County history book. There are no citations in this book referring to the Zoath Yost family of Pontiac.

1909 History Book

The 1909 history book titled *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Livingston County Volume Two* by Bateman and Selby is the fourth Livingston County history book. This book will be called the 1909 history book in future references. There are no citations in this book referring to the Zoath Yost family of Pontiac.

Other Important Historical Sources

The Fairbury Blade has now been digitized and is word searchable back to 1871. Access to the Blade archives is free and available from the Dominy Memorial Library website.

There were also other newspapers published in Fairbury between its founding in 1857 and 1871. Unfortunately, no copies of these early newspapers exist.

The Pontiac Sentinel was published from 1857 until about 1900. The Pontiac Library microfilm only goes back to 1871. The Sentinel is not yet digitized.

Unfortunately, the Pontiac Daily Leader has not yet been fully digitized. The web site GenealogyBank.com requires an annual subscription fee to access the archived articles. This web site has archived copies of the Daily Leader from 1958 to 1970.

The web site Ancestry.com requires an annual subscription fee to access the archived newspaper articles. This web site has archived copies of the Daily Leader from 1971 to 1977.

The number of times the name of a family appears in a small town newspaper is usually reflective of the importance of the family to that community. The chart below indicates how many times each year the Yost name appeared in the Daily Leader.

Year	Number of Articles with Yost	Newspaper Name	Source	
1958	20	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	*only 4 months
1959	67	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1960	42	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1961	37	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1962	42	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1963	50	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1964	66	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1965	65	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1966	70	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1967	45	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1968	45	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1969	42	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1970	52	Pontiac Daily Leader	GenealogyBank.com	
1971	5	Pontiac Daily Leader	Ancestry.com	
1972	16	Pontiac Daily Leader	Ancestry.com	
1973	19	Pontiac Daily Leader	Ancestry.com	
1974	29	Pontiac Daily Leader	Ancestry.com	
1975	23	Pontiac Daily Leader	Ancestry.com	
1976	17	Pontiac Daily Leader	Ancestry.com	
1977	18	Pontiac Daily Leader	Ancestry.com	

The chart above indicates the Yost family members were very active in their community.

The Leader likely has more articles about the Yost family that have not been digitized yet. Hopefully, the Leader will get fully digitized, and researchers will be able to search easily for new material about the Yost family.

The Bloomington Pantagraph newspaper archives are also available online and can be searched back to 1838. There is an annual subscription fee required to access these archives. The Pantagraph carried many articles about members of the Yost family over the years. Many of these articles were used to construct this book.

The Pantagraph had many articles about Fielding Yost, the famous University of Michigan football coach. The paper also has many article about Eddie Yost, a famous baseball player. It was not possible to easily compile the number of articles by year that were written about only the Zoath Yost family of Pontiac.

Newspapers.com is a web site that contains archives of thousands of newspapers. Annual subscription fees are required to access these archives.

Google Books was also an invaluable source for old books with information about the Yost family. NOTE: You must utilize the Google Book option to find these books. The regular Google search feature does not readily identify these old publications.

Citations

If possible, references and dates will be noted for all materials used in this book. In the event no date is available, that fact will be noted.

Sanborn Maps

The Sanborn Insurance Company periodically made maps of many small towns in Central Illinois. Sanborn maps still exist for Pontiac in the years of 1888, 1892, 1897, 1903, 1910, and 1923.

The Yost House was built in 1898. The 1897 Sanborn map shows Plum Street running south from Water Street to the Vermilion River. The 1903 Sanborn map shows that Plum Street was removed and the Yost House built on the old road.

Newspaper Stories

All newspaper stories cited in this book will be presented in the original wording of the article. If the copy of the article had adequate quality, it may be shown as an image. If the article is of poor visual quality, it will be transcribed into text.

Pantagraph Negatives

Starting a few years ago, the Pantagraph released their old photo negatives to the McLean County Museum of History. The museum has the negative scanned and then posted on a web site where anyone can access them for free. Negatives from the Pontiac area can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/37x62cvx>. Negatives that were used in this book will be referred to as “Pantagraph negatives.”

Hopefully, as the Pantagraph continues to release their old negatives, more old photos of the Yost family will become available in future years.

Archive.Org

Most of the rare documents discovered in researching this book have been uploaded to Archive.Org. Hopefully, this web site will survive for many years in the future, and future researchers can easily find this material.

Use of AI (Artificial Intelligence)

Several chat type AI programs were tested for possible use in finding out more information about the Yost family, including Chat.openai.com/. None of these AI programs were helpful. All searches came back with incorrect information. At this time, AI does not work reliably enough to perform historical research.

Book on West Virginia History

Earl L. Core was an author who published several books about the history of Monongalia County in West Virginia. Mr. Core was in contact with Paul Yost when he wrote his third book in a series of five volumes titled ***The Monongalia Story***. This book was originally published sometime prior to 1980. A copy of this book was obtained and the information provided by Paul Yost will be in the chapter covering the 1980 time period.

Likely More Yost Family Information in Fairview, West Virginia

There is likely more information about the Zoath Yost family to be found if one traveled to Fairview, West Virginia. There is likely some information there that has not yet been digitized and is not available through the Internet. At this time, the author has not traveled to Fairview, West Virginia, to investigate other possible information sources.

Chronological Chapters

This book is designed in chronological order to make it easier to follow the story of the Yost family.

CHAPTER 2

1728 to 1871

Yost Family History

The family history of the Yost family traces back to the birth of Johann (John) Andreas Justus Youst in 1754 in Bavaria, Germany. John Youst was the son of Hans Justi Youst (1729-1760) and Maria Gompfers (1728-1803).

In 2019, Mary Ann Wohlschlager Ramey wrote a history about the John Yost family titled *John A. Youst Genealogy – 11 Generations*, that she posted on Ancestry.com. According to his document, John Youst emigrated from Bavaria, Germany in the year 1773, when he was 19 years old. John landed in New York City where he hired out at manual labor for one year to pay his ship passage to the Colonies, as was the custom of that day. He met Catherine Snuiche (Snook) of Holland and English parentage, who came to this country about the same time. She was a fine scholar, well-read in both English and German. They were married at Elizabeth, New Jersey the next year, where they lived for a time before moving to Trenton, NJ.

John served for seven years in the Continental Army, participating in the battles of that section. Many of the chief incidents have been related by them. At the end of the war they removed with the frontier tide of emigration, that came over the mountains by way of Cumberland, MD and Braddock's Road into Northwestern, VA.

They settled on Indian Creek in Monongalia County, eight miles out of Morgantown Station, where he owned a farm of 240 acres. John paid tax on this from 1792 to 1817. Bounty Land Warrant records Vol 2-4, issued prior to 1800, show a John Yost, Revolutionary War Private in PA, received 100 acres on Warrant #10680 issued 21 Mar 1792.

John and Catherine Youst had eight children. One of the eight children of John Youst was David L. Youst, born in 1789 in Monongalia County, Pennsylvania. David Youst married Rebecca Fluharty in 1810 in Monongalia County, Virginia. David was 21 and Rebecca was 20 years of age when they married. David and Rebecca Youst had eleven children.

David Youst helped lay out the town of Fairview in Marion County, West Virginia. In about 1808, he located on a homestead, owning over 1000 acres on Paw Paw Creek.

One of the eleven children of David and Rebecca Youst was Fielding Hamilton Youst. Fielding was born in 1827. Fielding Youst married Malinda Ann Jones in 1851 in Monongalia County, West Virginia. Fielding and Malinda were both 23 years of age when they married. Fielding and Malinda Youst had six children.

1903 Combined Biographies of Fielding Hamilton Yost and his Son Dr. De Laniel Lee Youst

The 1903 book *Men of West Virginia* has a combined biography for Fielding Hamilton Yost and his son Dr. De Laniel Youst.

Dr. DE LANIEL LEE YOST, B. S., M. D., M. E., the subject of this sketch, who is a leading physician and surgeon of Fairmont. West Virginia, prefers that we refer to ancestral achievements and history than to personal endeavors. We find no more interesting study in heredity than the evidence: that to be well born gives a force of character and energy that no amount of cultivation can give the less fortunate.

The paternal great-grandfather, John Yost, came to the American Colonies from Bavaria, Germany, before the Revolution, and soon after landing in New York married a young woman from Holland, Katie Suuiche, whom he met on board ship en route here from the Fatherland. While living in Elizabeth, New Jersey, he joined the Colonial Army, fought against the British during the long Revolutionary War, and many incidents have been related in history that concerned the commands of which he was a member in their operations about Trenton. After the war, they trekked across the Alleghenies by way of Cumberland station, on the old Braddock Road, finally locating near Indian Creek, where they homesteaded valuable lands. There John Yost died and was buried about 1815. There were seven sons in the family,—Henry. John, Aaron, William, Peter, Jacob and David, the grandfather of Dr. Yost,— and five were born at the new home. This was in the day of disputed frontiers against savage beasts of the forest and the still more savage aborigines.

David Yost, our subject's grandfather, homesteaded nearly 1000 acres of forest land at the head of Pawpaw Creek, the present site of the thrifty inland town of Fairview and the present center of the oil field's wealth and new coal industries. At the time of the second war with England, grants were made good by paying back taxes on patents that had been many years neglected and much of the land, through this procedure, cost less than \$1.50 an acre. From trading stock and trapping, the money was saved. There were many incidents of overland trips afoot through the forests, with silver wearing and chafing in the pockets on his person, to make payments on his land at Morgantown, then the only post office and the only place where there were record offices in that section since Virginia was a colony. No greater evidence of hardihood and indefatigable will and industry could be shown than the life and accomplishments of this sturdy, temperate man. He was born in 1799 and died in 1856 from typhoid fever. From his marriage there resulted 11 children, some of whom are still living, past 86, in the West. Of the sons, James Yost died recently at 84; Jehu D. and Nicholas were both practitioners of botanic medicine.



Fielding-Yost

Fielding H. Yost, the youngest son of David Yost, and father of our subject, was born August 4, 1827. He was the idol of his parents in their declining years. He was given every advantage of education, was favored with private tutors, and attended Rector College in 1846-47, then one of the most noted schools of the section. He was remembered in that day for his fascinating oratory and patriotism in his speeches, at the musters of militia for the Mexican War with companies organized by his brother, Dr. Jehu D. Yost. His devotion to the good and uplifting of the communities made him prominent in the organization of the Sons of Temperance, the Sunday-school work, and the first lodge of Freemasonry in Fairmont. He was devoted to the practice of medicine and was intensely in earnest in his support of the new school of reforms then coming up against the heroic, antiphlogistic and depleting effects of mercury, blue mass, antimony, blood-letting, etc., then the prevalent system of treating diseases. After several years of association with his brothers in the practice, he graduated with the degree of M. D., from the Eclectic Medical Institute, Cincinnati, in 1860. In the war between the States, he took the side of Virginia's defense, and was made a surgeon in Lee's army, and was a personal associate of General Lee in camp in the early part of 1861; he took charge of the field hospital at Monterey, Virginia, and there served both Federals and Confederates, was captured, served in prison, was afterward neutral throughout the remainder of the war, and taught submission and forgiveness at the fateful end of that then necessary struggle.

From 1864 to 1867 he was located at Morgantown in practice, being sought from far and near for his skilled services in surgical operations, performing laparotomy and lithotomy for abscess and for stone, in the days when but little was known of antiseptics, more than the need for absolute cleanliness. Many who were living 30 years after his death owed the prolongation of their lives to his skill. He died May 13, 1872 in the time of his brilliant achievements. His services were sought even during the two years when he was stricken with paralysis of the throat, affecting speech, though he would write from a clear brain and fertile mind for the many that came from afar for advice from this source of fruitful knowledge. Personally, his was a life of genius, overwork and sincere and unselfish devotion to the service of needful humanity.

In appearance, the late Dr. Fielding H. Yost was a man of medium stature, straight and wiry as an athlete; his commanding though gentle bearing was magnetic and inspiring to the sick and the distressed. He had dark wavy hair, long beard, high forehead, soft yet piercing blue-gray eyes that met yours in language that pierced deeper than words and inspired sincerity of a friend, especially those in need.

Such a forceful intellect and fertile mind, with such integrity and devotion to hard work, burn out vitality in rays of genius, live years in a day, dying young, and their achievements live after them as an inspiration to those whose like ambition is to excel and be proficient.

Dr. Fielding H. Yost was married May 19, 1851, to Melinda A. Jones, who still survives him, and is now living at the old homestead in Marion County, West Virginia, hale and sprightly at the age of 72. Her grandfather, Joseph Jones, after serving three years in the War of 1812, under General Harrison, removed to Virginia from his home in New Jersey. Joseph Jones' uncle served for seven years in the Revolutionary War. Her father, John Jones, kept an old landmark inn at Pleasant Valley, a famous resort in the historic days of wagon trains and stage coaches on the old State Road, long before the Baltimore & Ohio route was surveyed across the Alleghenies.

The father's mantle has fallen on two of his sons, and on the same homestead, from which six others of the family name and three generations have entered the ranks of the same profession, was born De Laniel Lee Yost. November 7. 1861, the second son of a family of three girls and five boys. Born under such favorable heredity and ample patrimony and provisions for education in the will left by his father, he was expected to follow with advantage the profession of medicine, business virtually awaiting him. He attended the State Normal School at Fairmont and the State University at Morgantown, and graduated with the degree of B. S. from Central College, Danville, Indiana, in 1886. He finished his medical course at Indianapolis in the Eclectic Medical College, in 1888, in which city he located in the practice of medicine, later getting the advantages of postgraduate courses.

He practiced six years at Fairview, the old homestead, with profit, assuming all responsibility incident to medicine and surgery in an active oil town. He took up the further study of his profession in 1893 in the Post-Graduate School of Philadelphia, and in 1894 at the Post- Graduate School of New York. In 1895 he accepted the chair of eclectic theory and practice of medicine in the new American Medical College, Indianapolis, and the same chair in 1896 in the University of Medicine in that city, taking advantage of the ample clinic and hospital work in the other post-

graduate schools there. With the rest and recuperation, thus derived, he returned to West Virginia and located at Fairmont in 1898, in the special practice of medicine limited to chronic diseases. His practice is limited to office consultation, and he rarely does any visiting, except in cases of emergency or when called to consult with other physicians. His office at No. 225 Jefferson street is thronged at all hours of the day with patients; Dr. Yost often prescribes for as many as 50 a day, but his record is 84. He still holds a chair in the Eclectic Medical College and goes to Indianapolis each winter from now on for the work.

By strict integrity, untiring energy and devotion he has built up and now enjoys a large practice that extends over several counties. His sources of information from almost every science, of men, mind and affairs of the world, makes him liberal, proficient and independent of sect, and gives him the confidence of all associates and the business that he deserves. He was among the first to see the unfolding advantages of Fairmont's development and future, was wise in his investments, erecting several residence properties and a luxuriously appointed home, and was the pioneer in that city of the idea of resident flats. A five-story, pressed brick and stone, modern structure, recently erected by him on Main avenue, is a monument to his ambition, energy and integrity.

Dr. Yost is liberal in church and State, is social, modest and unassuming, whom to know you are assured of his utterly unselfish life and intense liberality of mind.

On May 21, 1890, Dr. Yost was married to Rose D. Youst, only daughter of the late Dr. Jorah Youst, of another branch of the Yost family, of the fifth remove, to which happy union two children have been born,—a son, Ernest Lee, now 12 years of age and a student in the Staunton Military Academy of Staunton, Virginia, and a daughter, who died a year ago.

We have found no more hospitable home, void of vanity or sham, where a welcome is immediately felt. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; the Encampment; and the Uniform Rank of the Knights of Pythias. He is an ex-member of the Indiana Eclectic Medical Association, and member of the Indianapolis Eclectic Medical Society and of the Indianapolis Academy of Medicine. He is a member of the West Virginia, State Eclectic Medical Association and American Association of Physicians and Surgeons. He is also a member of the New York Institute of Anthropology, Chicago Society of Psychological Research, and the National Medical-Legal Society in the study of criminology and heredity.

Men of West Virginia, Vol 2, Illustrated, Biographical Publishing Co, George Richmond, Pres.; C. R. Arnold, Sec'y and Treas., Chicago, Illinois, 1903. p737-742

One of the six children of Fielding and Malinda Youst was Zoath Freeman Yost. He was born in 1863 in Fairview, West Virginia. Zoath F. Yost eventually emigrated from West Virginia to Pontiac, Illinois.

Famous University of Michigan Football Coach

In 1871, Fielding Harris Yost was born in Fairview, West Virginia. Wikipedia has a biography of Fielding H. Yost.

Fielding Harris Yost (April 30, 1871 - August 20, 1946) was an American college football player, coach and athletics administrator. He served as the head football coach at: Ohio Wesleyan University, the University of Nebraska, the University of Kansas, Stanford University, San Jose State University, and the University of Michigan, compiling a coaching career record of 198-35-12.

During his 25 seasons as the head football coach at Ann Arbor, Yost's Michigan Wolverines won six national championships, captured ten Big Ten Conference titles, and amassed a record of 165-29-10.

From 1901 to 1905, his "Point-a-Minute" squads had a record of 55-1-1, outscoring their opponents by a margin of 2,821-42. The 1901 team beat Stanford, 49-0, in the 1902 Rose Bowl, the first college football bowl game.

Under Yost, Michigan won four straight national championships from 1901 to 1904 and two more in 1918 and 1923. In 1921, Yost became Michigan's athletic director and served in that capacity until 1940. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame as a coach in 1951. Yost was also a successful business person, lawyer, and author; but he is best known as a leading figure in pioneering the development of college football into a national phenomenon.

Using Ancestry.com, it was determined that Fielding H. Yost, the famous Michigan football coach, was the first cousin once removed of Zoath F. Yost.

One Branch of the Hartshorn Family Tree

Zoath Yost married Ella Louise Hartshorn in 1891 in Pontiac, Illinois. One branch of the Hartshorn family tree is very interesting because it traces back to a famous person, George O. Catlin.

This branch of the Hartshorn family tree began with Putnam Catlin. He was born in 1764 in Litchfield, Connecticut. Putnam Catlin married Mary Polly Sutton around 1784. Two of the children of Putnam and Mary Catlin were Mary Sutton Catlin (1802-1848) and George O. Catlin (1796-1872).

Wikipedia has a biography for George O. Catlin.

George Catlin (July 26, 1796 - December 23, 1872) was an American adventurer, lawyer, painter, author, and traveler, who specialized in portraits of Native Americans in the Old West.

Traveling to the American West five times during the 1830s, Catlin wrote about and painted portraits that depicted the life of the Plains Indians. His early work included engravings, drawn from nature, of sites along the route of the Erie Canal in New York State. Several of his renderings were published in one of the first printed books to use lithography, Cadwallader D. Colden's *Memoir, Prepared at the Request of a Committee of the Common Council of the City of New York, and Presented to the Mayor of the City, at the Celebration of the Completion of the New York Canals*, published in 1825, with early images of the City of Buffalo.

Background and Education

George Catlin was born in 1796 in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. While growing up, George encountered "trappers, hunters, explorers and settlers who stayed with his family on their travels west." As his father had trained at Litchfield Law School, George was sent there when he was 17, although he disliked the field of law. He was admitted to the Bar in 1819 and practiced law for two years before giving it up to travel and study art. In 1823, he studied art in Philadelphia and became known for his work as a portraitist. After a meeting with "tribal delegation of Indians from the western frontier, Catlin became eager to preserve a record of Native American customs and individuals."

Travels

Catlin began his journey in 1830 when he accompanied Governor William Clark on a diplomatic mission up the Mississippi River into Native American territory. St. Louis became Catlin's base of operations for five trips he took between 1830 and 1836, eventually visiting fifty tribes. Two years later he ascended the Missouri River more than 3000 km (1900

miles) to Fort Union Trading Post, near what is now the North Dakota-Montana border, where he spent several weeks among indigenous people who were still relatively untouched by European culture. He visited eighteen tribes, including the Pawnee, Omaha, and Ponca in the south and the Mandan, Hidatsa, Cheyenne, Crow, Assiniboiné, and Blackfeet to the north. There he produced the most vivid and penetrating portraits of his career. During later trips along the Arkansas, Red, and Mississippi rivers, as well as visits to Florida and the Great Lakes, he produced more than 500 paintings and gathered a substantial collection of artifacts.

Indigenous Gallery

When Catlin returned east in 1838, he assembled the paintings and numerous artifacts into his Indian Gallery, and began delivering public lectures that drew on his personal recollections of life among the American Indians. Catlin traveled with his Indian Gallery to major cities such as Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, and New York. He hung his paintings "salon style", side by side and one above another. Visitors identified each painting by the number on the frame, as listed in Catlin's catalogue. Soon afterward, he began a lifelong effort to sell his collection to the U.S. government. The touring Indian Gallery did not attract the paying public Catlin needed to stay financially sound, and the United States Congress rejected his initial petition to purchase the works.

In 1839 Catlin took his collection across the Atlantic for a tour of European capitals. As a showman and entrepreneur, he initially attracted crowds to his Indian Gallery in London, Brussels, and Paris. The French critic Charles Baudelaire remarked on Catlin's paintings, "He has brought back alive the proud and free characters of these chiefs, both their nobility and manliness."

Catlin wanted to sell his Indian Gallery to the U.S. government to have his life's work preserved intact. His continued attempts to persuade various officials in Washington, D.C. to buy the collection failed. In 1852 he was forced to sell the original Indian Gallery, now 607 paintings, due to personal debts. The industrialist Joseph Harrison acquired the paintings and artifacts, which he stored in a factory in Philadelphia, as security.

Catlin spent the last 20 years of his life trying to recreate his collection, and recreated more than 400 paintings. This second collection of paintings is known as the "Cartoon Collection", since the works are based on the outlines he drew of the works from the 1830s.

In 1841 Catlin published *Manners, Customs, and Condition of the North American Indians*, in two volumes, with approximately 300 engravings. Three years later he published 25 plates, entitled Catlin's North American

Indian Portfolio, and, in 1848, *Eight Years' Travels and Residence in Europe*.

From 1852 to 1857 he traveled through South and Central America and later returned for further exploration in the Far West. The record of these later years is contained in *Last Rambles amongst the Indians of the Rocky Mountains and the Andes* (1868) and *My Life among the Indians* (ed. by N. G. Humphreys, 1909). Paintings of his Spanish American Indians are published.

In 1872, Catlin traveled to Washington, D.C. at the invitation of Joseph Henry, the first secretary of the Smithsonian. Until his death later that year in Jersey City, New Jersey, Catlin worked in a studio in the Smithsonian "Castle". In 1879 Harrison's widow donated the original Indian Gallery, more than 500 works, along with related artifacts, to the Smithsonian.

The nearly complete surviving set of Catlin's first Indian Gallery, painted in the 1830s, is now part of the Smithsonian American Art Museum's collection. The associated Catlin artifacts are in the collections of the Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian. Some 700 sketches are held by the American Museum of Natural History, New York City. Some artifacts from Catlin are in the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology collections.

The Huntington Library in San Marino, California also holds 239 of Catlin's illustrations of both North and South American Indians, as well as other illustrative and manuscript material by Catlin.

The accuracy of some of Catlin's observations has been questioned. He claimed to be the first white man to see the Minnesota pipestone quarries, and pipestone was named catlinite. Catlin exaggerated various features of the site, and his boastful account of his visit aroused his critics, who disputed his claim of being the first white man to investigate the quarry. Previous recorded white visitors include the Groselliers and Radisson, Father Louis Hennepin, Baron de Lahontan, and others. Lewis and Clark noted the pipestone quarry in their journals in 1805. The fur trader Philander Prescott had written another account of the area in 1831.

Later Works

Le Chat d'Ostende is one of the most unusual paintings in Catlin's later oeuvre, dated '1868' and inscribed with the title on the stretcher. It has been called "a folksy depiction of a playful cat that bore much of the same technique, wonderment and enthusiasm exhibited in the artist's later depiction of Native Americans."

After the sale of Catlin's Indian Gallery was rebuffed by Congress in May 1838, Catlin felt he could find a more receptive audience in Europe and moved his family to England in November 1839, then to Paris in 1845, and eventually lived in some obscurity in Ostend. In 1871, after an absence of more than three decades, Catlin returned to the United States and likely brought back the painting with him. It resurfaced in 1957 in the private collection of Lee B. Anderson, a pioneer collector of American art, and was subsequently sold at Christie's for \$47,000 on 24 May 2000. The painting reflects a playful quiet domesticity that contrasts sharply from the American bison that thundered across the Great Plains of the American West in the millions. The majestic long-haired cat itself bears some resemblance to a bison and exhibits a human-like face that may be a self-portrait given the play on words inherent in the subject matter and the artist's surname.

Mary Sutton Catlin (1802-1848), sister of famous painter George O. Catlin (1796-1872), married Asa Hartshorn (1796-1865). One of the children of Asa and Mary Hartshorn was Thomas Colt Hartshorn (1830-1890).

Thomas C. Hartshorn married Catherine Williams (1840-1920). One of the children of Thomas and Catherine Hartshorn was Ella Louise Hartshorn, who married Zoath Yost. The children of Zoath and Ella Yost were great-great nieces and great-great nephews of the famous painter, George O. Catlin.

Connection Between Ella Louise Hartshorn and Two Famous Revolutionary War Era Men

Catherine Williams – Hartshorn was the mother of Ella Louise Hartshorn, who married Zoath Yost. In the obituary for Catherine Hartshorn, it states that she was the daughter of James and Catherine Williams. The obituary also states that Catharine Hartshorn was a great grand-daughter of General Williams, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. She was also a great grand-daughter of Governor Jonathan Trumbull of Connecticut.

Ancestry.com has data indicating that James Williams was born in 1813 in Kentucky and died in 1850 in Belmont, Ohio. Unfortunately, the father of James Williams (1813-1850) can not be found in Ancestry.com or any other online source.

A family tree was constructed in Ancestry.com for William Williams (1731-1811). He married Mary Trumbull (1745-1831). Mary Trumbull was the daughter of Jonathan Trumbull Sr. (1710-1785), who was the Governor of Connecticut.

Descendant generations of William Williams was added to the Ancestry.com family tree. Unfortunately, James Williams could not be found as one of the descendants.

CHAPTER 3

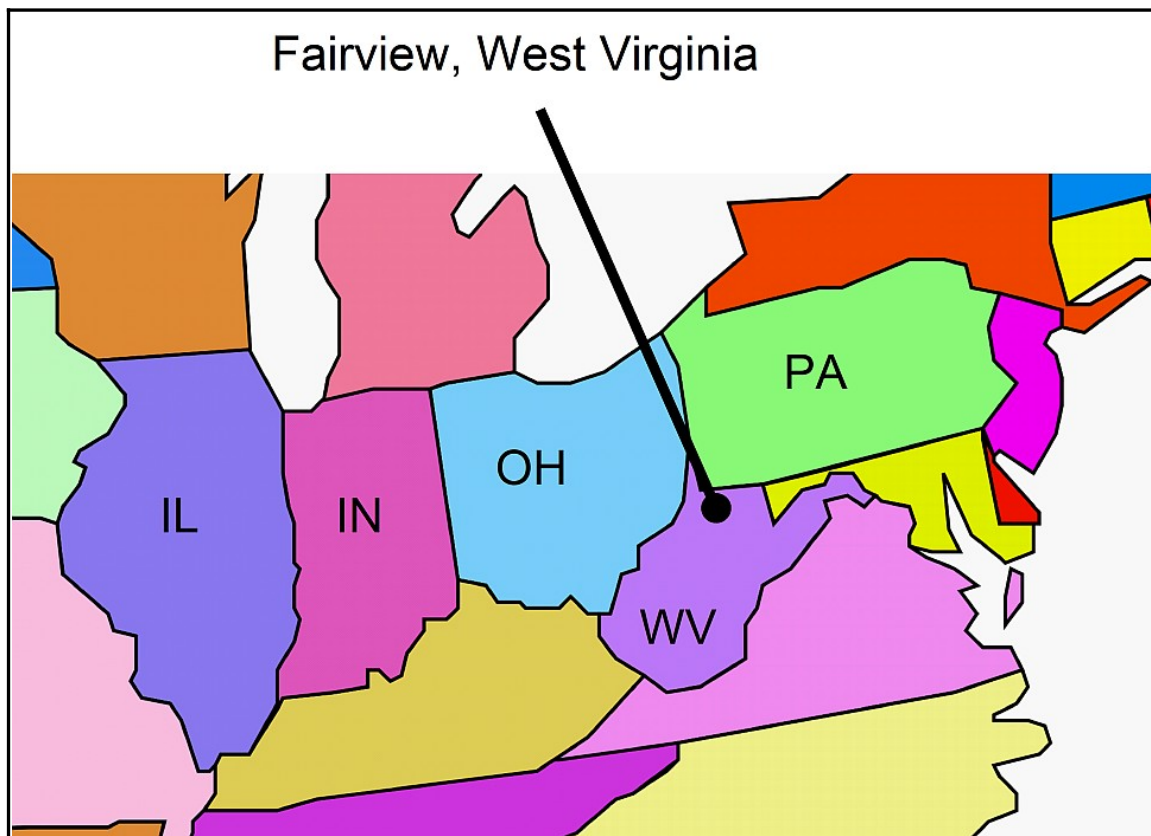
1872 to 1890

Zoath is an Unusual First Name

Zoath was likely derived from "Zoeth", the name of a minor biblical figure (Zoheth) who is mentioned in the Book of Chronicles.

Education of Zoath Yost

Zoath Yost was born and raised on a farm in Fairview, West Virginia, in Marion County. The village of Fairview is in northern West Virginia and is a short distance from Ohio and Pennsylvania.



Zoath Yost attended West Virginia University at Morgantown and graduated from the Department of Science in 1886. Classmates of Zoath Yost that later became nationally famous were Bishop Edwin Hughes and his brother Bishop Matthew Hughes. Another classmate and friend was George Burnham Foster, former head of the comparative religion department at the University of Chicago.

After graduating from West Virginia University, Zoath Yost became employed as a life insurance salesman and agent for the New York Life Insurance Company.

Ella Louise Hartshorn

Ella was the daughter of Thomas Colt Hartshorn (1830-1890) and Catherine Williams (1840-1920). Catherine Williams was the daughter of James and Catherine Williams and was born in 1840 in West Wheeling, Virginia. Catherine Williams married Dr. Thomas Colt Hartshorn in 1859. Dr. Hartshorn and his wife moved to Pontiac in the early 1860s. They lived at 303 West Water Street in Pontiac.

Ella Louise Hartshorn was born in Pontiac in 1866. She attended Pontiac schools and then attended schools in Chicago, Rockford College, and Western College in Oxford, Ohio.

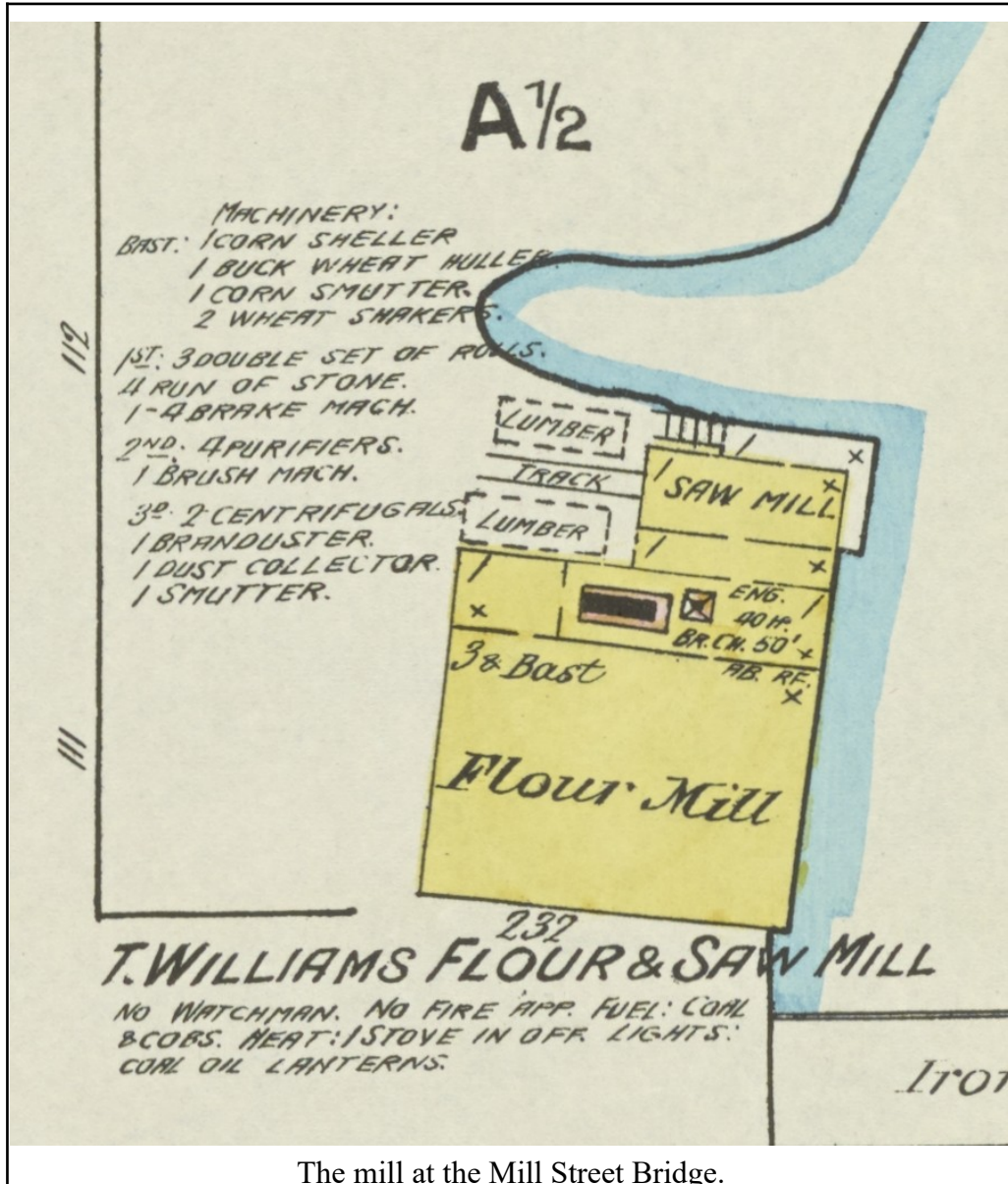
1888 Pontiac Sanborn Maps

The oldest of the six maps the Sanborn Insurance Company made of Pontiac was the 1888 map. Below is the general area around the Mill Street Bridge in 1888.



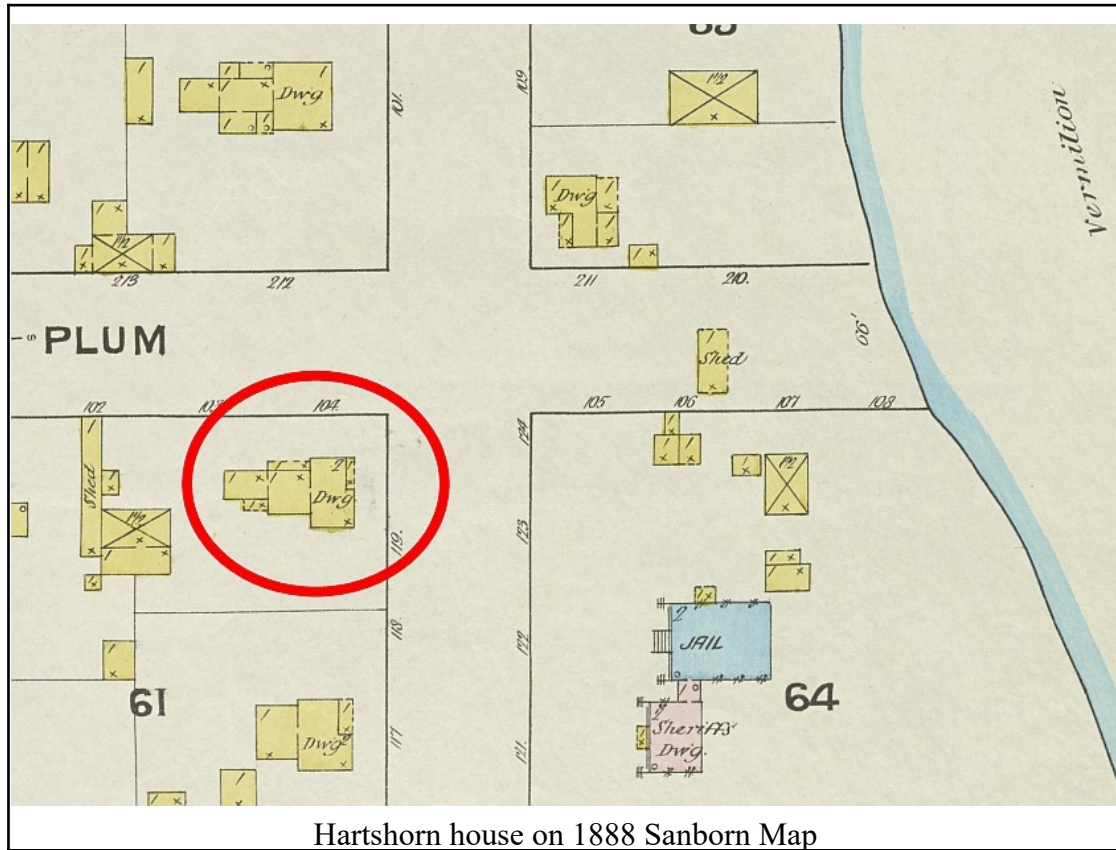
General area around the Mill Street Bridge.





The mill at the Mill Street Bridge.

Prior to her marriage to Zoath Yost, Ella Louise Hartshorn lived with her parents at 303 West Water Street. This house was built in the early 1860s and is shown on the 1888 Sanborn Map of Pontiac. Note that in 1888 Plum Street ran from Water Street to the Vermilion River.



Marriage of Zoath Yost

On November 18, 1890, Zoath Yost married Ella Louise Hartshorn in Pontiac. Zoath was 28 and Ella was 25 years of age when they married. The New Dominion newspaper in Morgantown, West Virginia, published the following story on November 29, 1890.

YOST—HARTSHORN—The Pontiac, Illinois, Sentinel, of November 21st gives the following account of the marriage of Mr. Z. F. Yost, who has a wide circle of acquaintances in West Virginia:

Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 18th, occurred the marriage of Miss Ella Louise Hartshorn, of this city, to Mr. Zoath Freeman Yost, of Morgantown, West Virginia. The ceremony was performed in the presence of about forty

invited guests by Rev. E. I. Davis, of this city, assisted by Rev. E. G. Smith, of Princeton, Illinois.

The bride is the only daughter of Rev. T. C. Hartshorn, of this city, and is one of the most accomplished and estimable young ladies of the city. Her personal charms and graces of character are such as have endeared her to a large circle of friends and acquaintances who will regret to part with her.

Mr. Yost, the groom, is the son of Dr. F. H. Yost, now deceased, but once a prominent physician in the east. He was graduated with honors from the University of West Virginia in '86 and since has been connected with the New York Life Insurance Company as traveling general agent. He has recently become identified with the oil interests of his native state, W. Va. He was attended by his old college friend, Rev. John A. Crawford, of Wheeling, at present a member of the senior class of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Allegheny City, Pa.

Among the guests from abroad were Mrs. Jonathan Abel, of Chicago; Miss Nettie Crosby, of Chicago; and Miss Edith Clinton, of Joliet.

The happy couple left Tuesday evening on the C and A limited for St. Louis and a short tour in other points in the south. Returning to Pontiac for a brief period, they will go east and make their future home in Morgantown, West Virginia. Many friends here extend congratulations and best wishes.

On November 22, just four days after they were married, Thomas C. Hartshorn, father of Ella Hartshorn, died at the age of 60. The November 28, 1890, Pantagraph published his obituary.

PONTIAC, Nov. 22.—This morning at 9 o'clock the Rev. Thomas C. Hartshorn, an old and respected citizen of this city, died quite suddenly, although he has been a great sufferer for the last ten years or more and was confined to the house the most of the time. He was regularly ordained Presbyterian minister and for more than twenty-five years acted as agent of the American Bible society. He was about 65 years of age and leaves surviving his estimable wife and one son and one daughter, Mrs. Z. F. Yost, all of whom were at his bedside at the time of his death.

After marriage and after working five years in the life insurance industry, Zoath Yost decided to start attending law school at his alma mater, West Virginia University. Zoath graduated with a bachelor of law degree in the Class of 1893.

The June 24, 1893, edition of the Morgantown New Dominion published a story about commencement exercises at West Virginia University. The paper reported the following students received law degrees that year.

Bachelors of Law Degree

Charles W. Anderson, Bailey W. Chambers, Okey J. Chambers, William G. Conley, Sylvester H. Day, Charles N. Finnell, Samuel F. Glasscock, James G. Gorman, Morgan LeMasters, Christian R. Martin, Richard E. Talbott, Body E. Warne, Zoath F. Yost.

CHAPTER 4

1891 to 1901

Birth of First Child to Zoath and Ella Yost in 1891

Hellene Louise Yost was born in Pontiac on November 18, 1891. Zoath was 28 and Ella was 25 years of age when Hellene was born.

In newspapers and books, Hellene's first name was often spelled "Helene" or "Helen." Her obituary, her grave stone, and her last will & testament spell her name as Hellene Louise Yost.

Birth of Second Child to Zoath and Ella Yost in 1893

Catharine Virginia Yost was born in Pontiac on September 16, 1893. Zoath was 29 and Ella was 26 years of age when Catharine was born. Books and newspapers often spelled her first name as "Katherine", "Katharine", and "Catherine." Her obituary, her grave stone, and her last will & testament spell her name as Catharine Virginia Yost. If a reference source spelled her name incorrectly, the error was not fixed.

Zoath Yost Elected Pontiac City Attorney in 1895

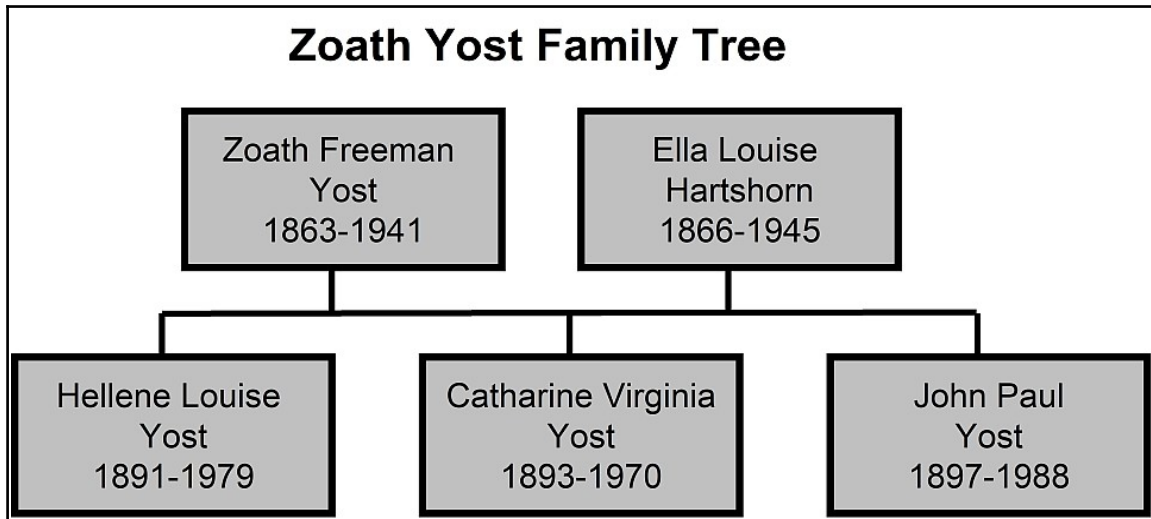
Zoath Yost was a Democrat and he was active in politics most of his life. The 1895 election focused on candidates that were either in favor of a \$1,000 license for saloon owners or were in favor of no licenses required. Zoath Yost, who was in favor of the \$1,000 liquor license, won the election for Pontiac City Attorney against anti-license candidate Ray Blasdel per the April 19, 1895, Pantagraph. The \$1,000 license fee in 1895 would be equivalent to \$35,066 in today's dollars.

There was a strong temperance (anti-alcohol) movement in Illinois in 1895. Another article in the April 19th Pantagraph reported that many small towns in Central Illinois voted in favor of requiring saloons to have license fees.

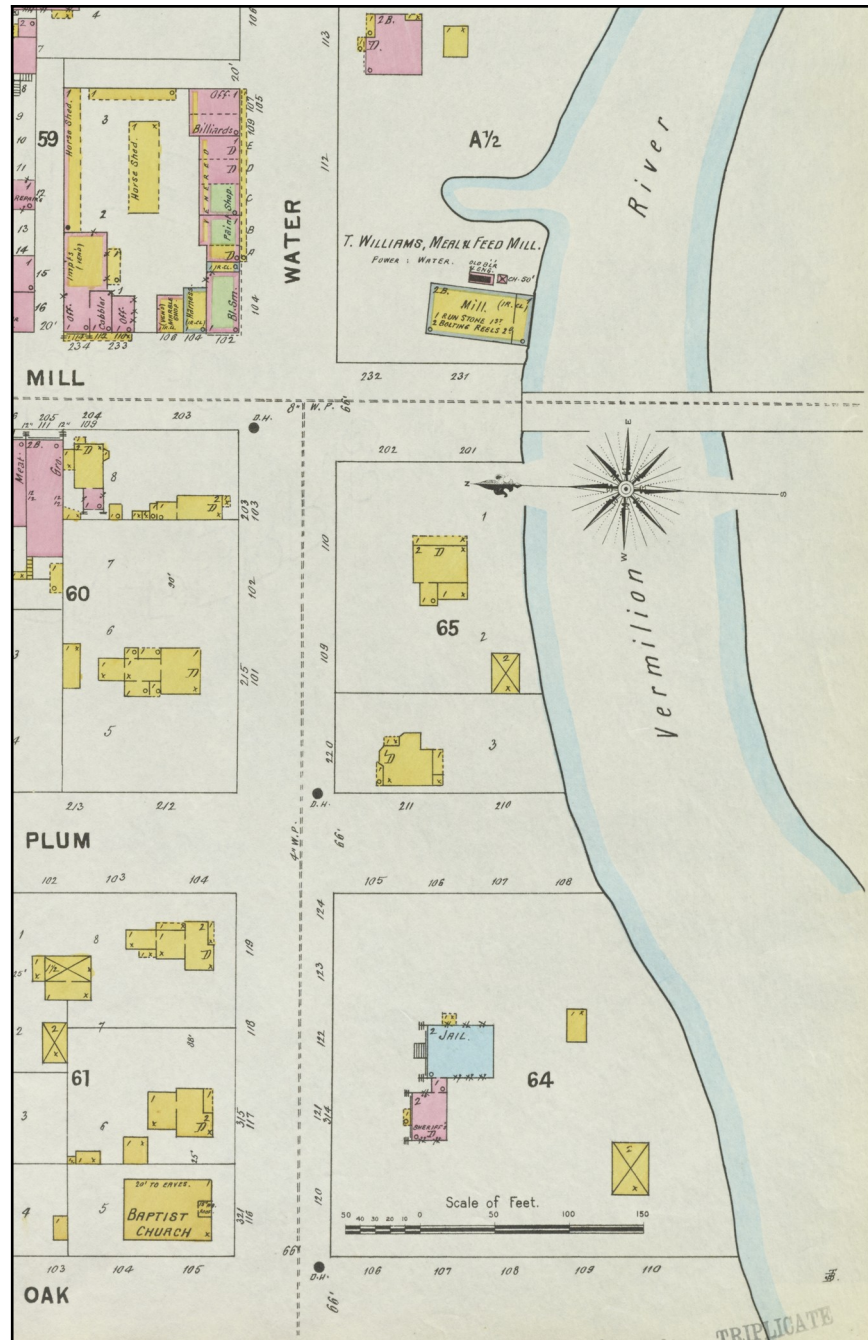
Birth of Third Child to Zoath and Ella Yost in 1897.

John Paul Yost was born in Pontiac on January 8, 1897. Zoath was 33 and Ella was 30 years of age when their last child was born.

Family Tree for Zoath and Ella Yost



The 1897 Pontiac Sanborn Map shows Plum Street running south from Water Street to the Vermilion River.



Yost House Built in 1898

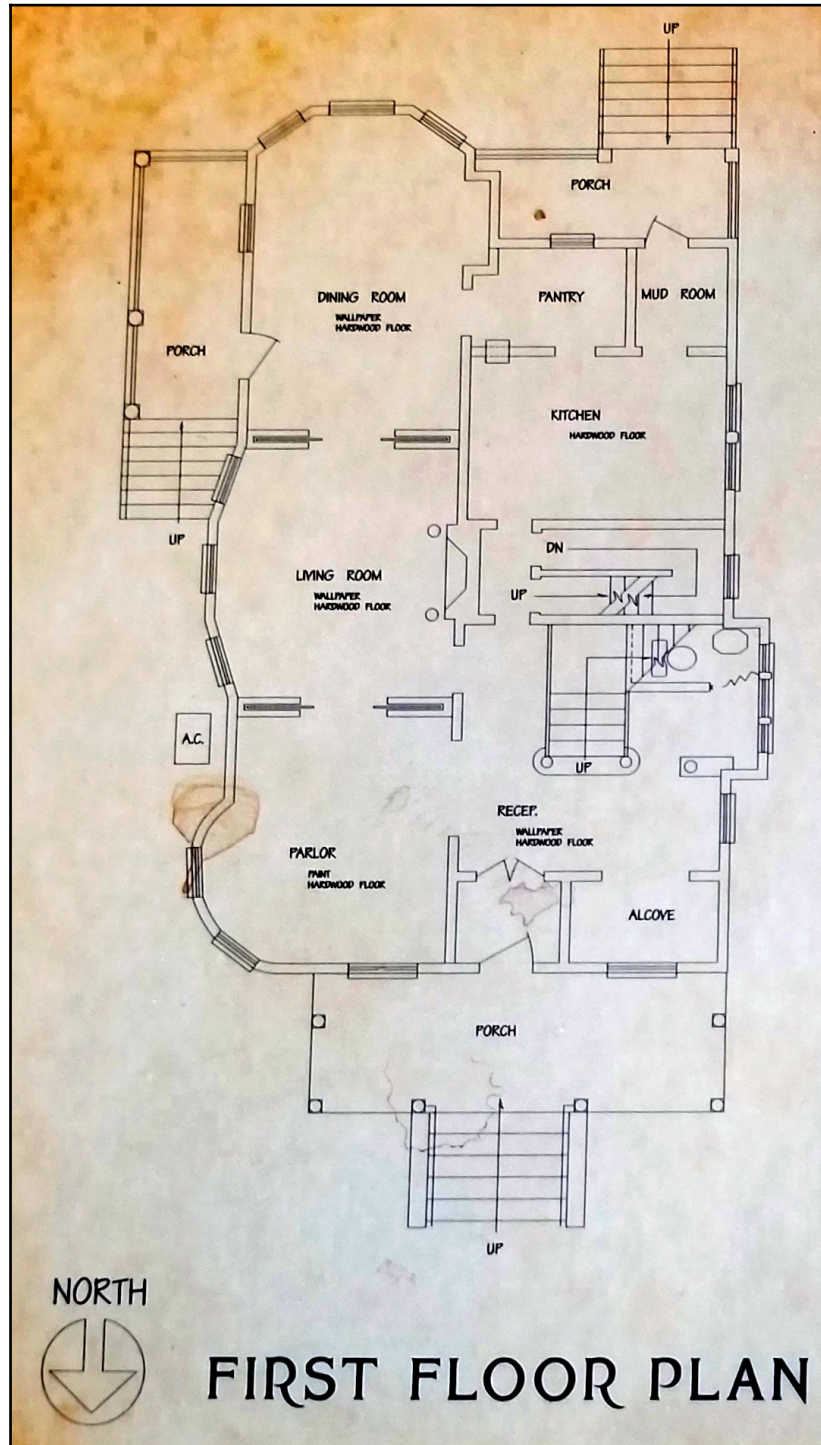
When the year 1898 began, Zoath Yost now had a family of five and needed a larger house. Family lore says the Ella Yost wanted to live near her mother and also have a house on the Vermilion River. Since Zoath Yost was the Pontiac City Attorney, he was able to have the short piece of Plum Street removed that ran south from Water Street to the Vermilion River. With the street gone, the Yosts were able to build a new house on the Vermilion River.

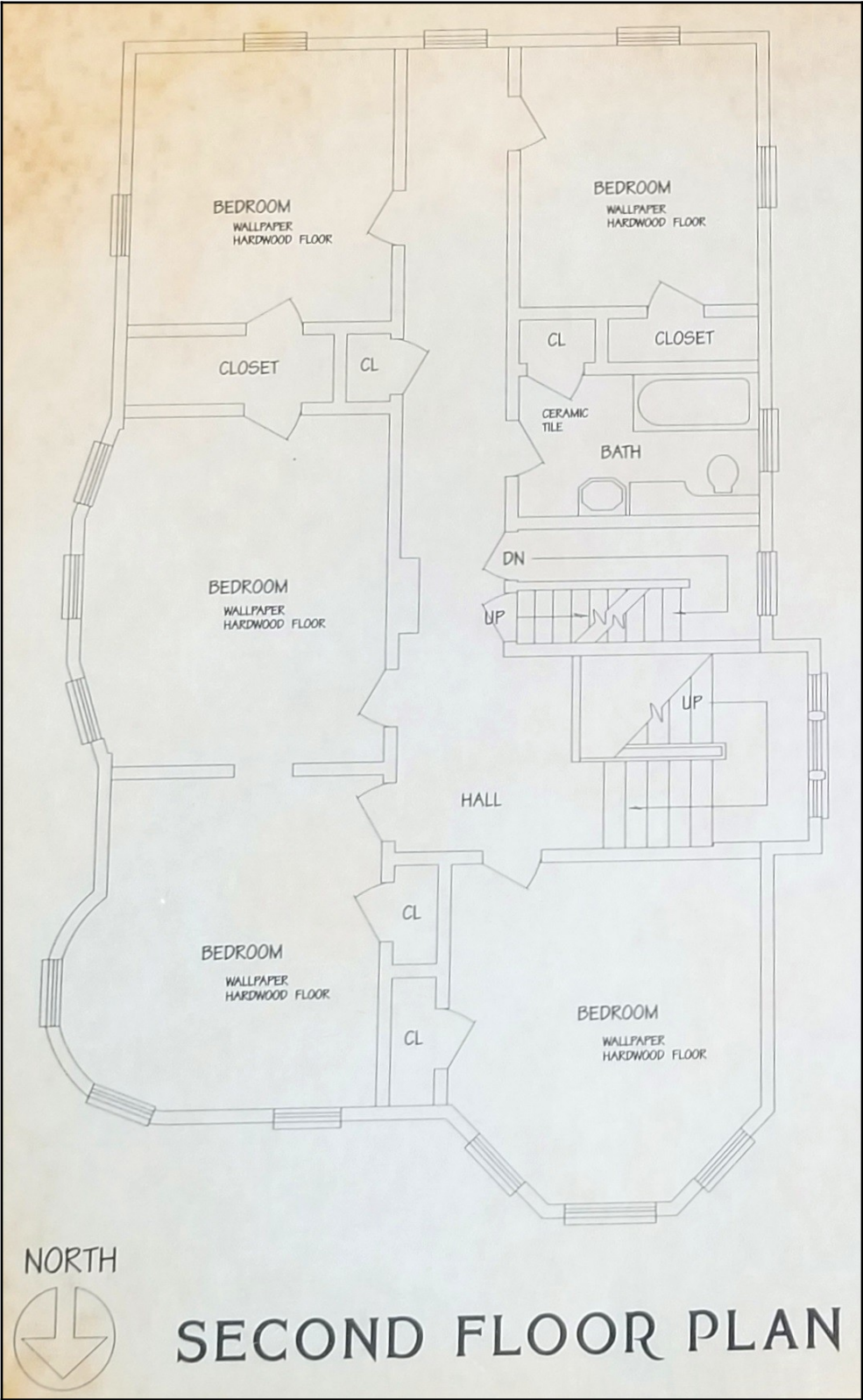


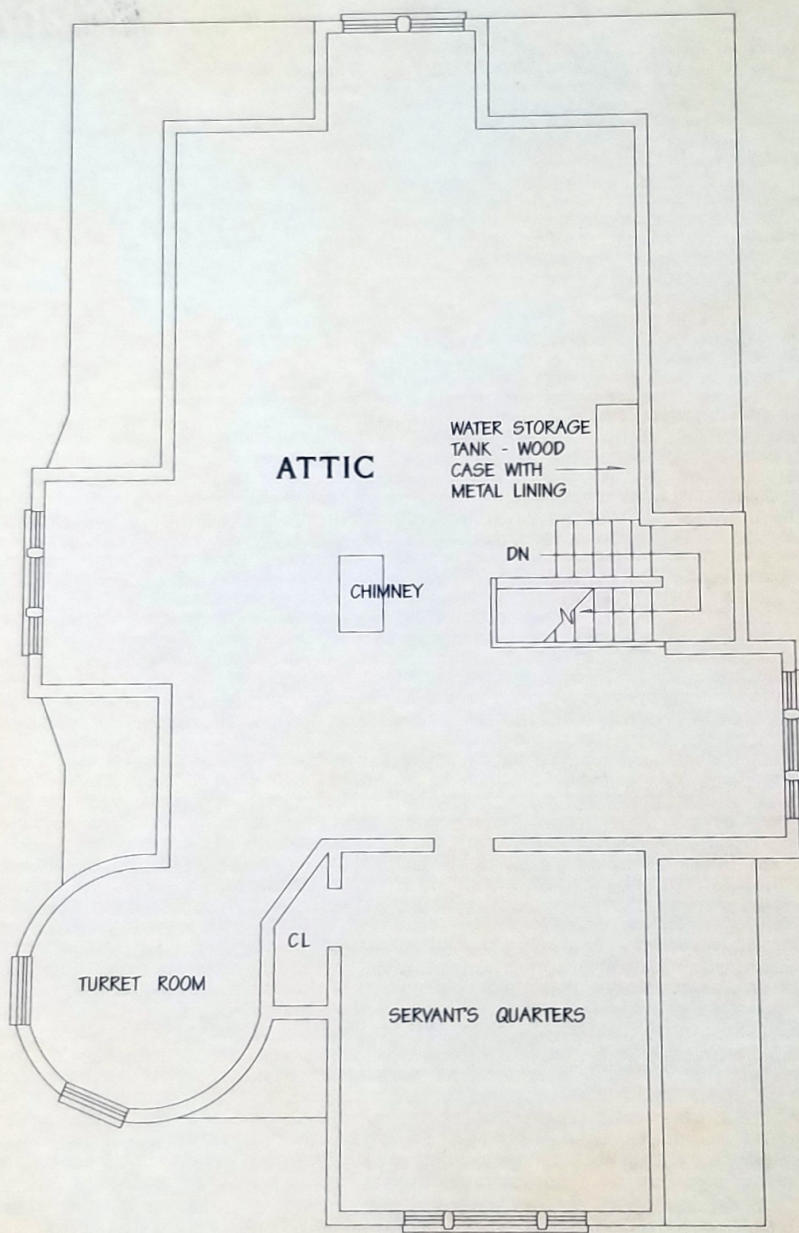
Yost House in May of 2023.

Original Floor Plans and Specifications for the Yost House

Copies of the original 1898 architectural floor plans and specifications still exist and are shown below. High resolution images of these floor plans can be viewed or downloaded from [Archive.Org](https://archive.org).







NORTH



ATTIC FLOOR PLAN

Exterior

Built in 1898

Architect – Miller and Fisher of Bloomington, IL

Materials were supplied by T. F. Hardwood & Sons of Bloomington.

Foundation:

7' 4" in height and 16 inches thick. Made from stone and mortar. Mortar was made from 1 part cement and 3 parts sand.

Roofing:

Original shingles were white cedar on angled roofs and tin for flashings and around windows. The roofs were covered with tin and secured with solder.

Exterior Features and Covering:

Porches, steps and lattices were made using white pine lumber free of sap and knots not longer than ½ inch.

Siding – 4 inch clear white pine lapped 7/8 inch over each other and secured with penny nails.

Interior

Flooring:

White pine tongued and grooved except for the Reception Hall, Vestibule, Nook, and Stairway which are tongued and grooved white oak.

Doors:

White oak or white oak veneer. Sliding doors are hung using ball bearing hangers Lundy (brand) ball A.

Walls:

All walls are plastered.

Electrical:

Main #8 copper insulated branch wires #10, #12, & #14 all knob and tube. All connections soldered together and wrapped with insulated fabric.

Furnace:

Akron Air Blast #45. This was a lot air coal fired furnace. All duct work was wrapped with asbestos and made with tin for registers and galvanized iron for cold air intakes. This was the first furnace to have a 5 yr. guarantee. "Not better than the Best, But Better than the Rest" was the slogan.

Plumbing:

SyphonJet is a system that uses no valves or seals. This system was favored in areas to conserve water. You would control the amount of water going into the toilet with a lever on the holding tank.

3/4 inch galvanized iron pipe was used to bring water into the home from the city. The "water closet" (toilet) used a Walff D 271 siphon jet with a 4 inch soil pipe going to the sewer.

Supply pipes were 5/8" medium lead. All basement pipes were galvanized iron.

Toilets were supplied by city water. Washbasins and tubs were supplied with cistern water. Hot water was supplied by a range boiler in the attic (30 gallon).

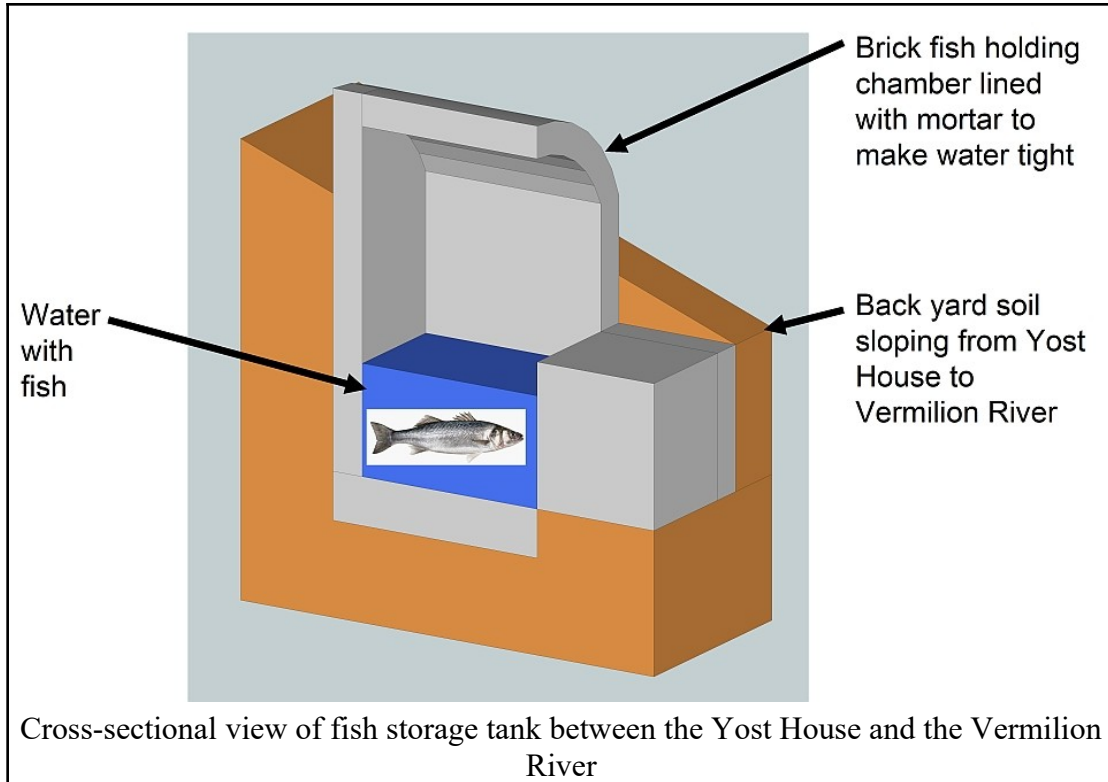
Water tank in the attic was 4 by 3 by 2 feet with a lead lining soldered on the inside. This was filled mostly by rain water and cistern water. This tank was what they called soft water and the city water was hard.

Yost House Back Yard Water Features

In the back yard of the Yost House, there is a unique fish holding tank built into the side of the yard that slopes down from the house to the Vermilion River.



A concept drawing of this fish storage unit is shown below. One could catch a fish in the Vermilion, then store it in the tank until it was time to prepare and eat it.



A fresh water line from the house to the storage unit was used to fill the tank. The water line then extended down to a small water pool and then ended at a bird bath.



Pool and bird bath between fish holding tank and Vermilion River.

Zoath Yost Brings Large Law Library to Pontiac

The February 1, 1895, Pantagraph published a story about a new lawyer coming to Pontiac.

Z. F. Yost, who, after graduating from the law department of the University of West Virginia, a few months ago opened a law office in this city, has one of the finest law libraries ever brought to Pontiac and one which a young lawyer especially has a right to feel proud of.

Zoath Yost was 32 years of age when this Pantagraph story was written.

Zoath Yost Gives 4th of July Speech at Flanagan

In that era, politicians often gave speeches at 4th of July events. The June 28, 1895, Pantagraph reported that Zoath was going to give a 4th of July speech.

Hon. Z. F. Yost, of Pontiac, orates at Flanagan on the Fourth.

Zoath Yost Runs for Livingston County Judge While Building New House

The August 5, 1898, Pantagraph published a story about what candidates the Democratic Party would be sponsoring for the upcoming election. Zoath Yost was selected to be the Democratic Party candidate for Livingston County Judge.

In that era, the citizens of Livingston County were mostly Republicans. Zoath Yost lost this election to be a County Judge.

CHAPTER 5

1902 to 1903

Zoath Yost Democratic Candidate for U.S. Congress

In Central Illinois, politicians usually start with lower level positions like County Board member or Mayor, then move up to the Illinois State Legislature. After having success at the State Legislature level, then the politician may seek a position as a Representative to the U.S. Congress.

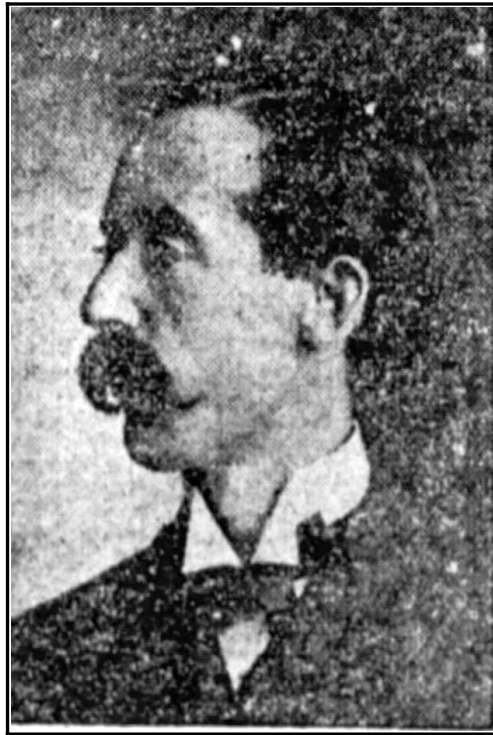
At the beginning of 1902, Zoath Yost had won one election to be the Pontiac City Attorney. He also had lost one election to be a Livingston County Judge.

The July 9, 1902, edition of the Pantagraph reported that Zoath Yost was the likely Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress. The headline of the article was “Yost the Probable Nominee.” An excerpt from this article is below.

There is but one candidate for the office of representative in congress and he comes from Livingston County and has received the endorsement of the county convention there. He is Z. F. Yost, a prominent young attorney of Pontiac. Mr. Yost came to Pontiac about ten years ago. He has been city attorney for a term and also received the Democratic nomination for county judge, but was defeated at the election. Efforts were made to get Mr. Lyon Karr of Eureka and Hon. L. R. Stringer of Lincoln to enter the race, but each of these have good excuses.

The rest of the article explains why Mr. Karr and Mr. Stringer can not run in this election cycle for U.S. Representative to Congress.

The August 1, 1902, Pantagraph published a story saying that Mr. Yost was nominated by the Democrats to run for U.S. Representative.



Mr. Zoath was asked to give a speech.

Mr. Yost, the nominee was then called for. He said that this was not time for mere words, but it is action that is wanted. It is conditions and not theories that are confronting the country. The Democratic party does not need harmony so much as it needs action. It must stand first, last and all the time for principle. He said that he cared little for office, as he is not an office seeker. He did not take it because no one else wanted it. He is not a politician and he wanted the delegates when they went home to tell the people that they had nominated a man not a politician. Mr. Yost is a pleasant speaker, and made a very good impression on the delegates.

The August 29, 1902, Pantagraph reported that Zoath Yost took part in a debate with his opponent for U.S. Congress Representative. The debate was held in Mount Pulaski, Illinois at the 29th annual reunion of the Logan County Old Settler's Association.

Hon. J. A. Sterling, of Bloomington, the Republicans' choice, and Hon. Z. F. Yost, of Pontiac, the Democratic selection. Both men delivered addresses.

The October 30, 1902, Woodford County Journal published a specimen ballot showing Zoath Yost running against John A. Sterling for U.S. Congressional Representative.

<input type="radio"/> DEMOCRATIC.	<input type="radio"/> REPUBLICAN.
<input type="checkbox"/> For State Treasurer, GEORGE DUDDLESTON, 44 Throop St., Chicago.	<input type="checkbox"/> For State Treasurer, FRED A. BUSSE, 504 N. Clark St., Chicago.
<input type="checkbox"/> For Superintendent of Public Instruction, ANSON L. BLISS, Mt. Vernon.	<input type="checkbox"/> For Superintendent of Public Instruction, ALFRED BAYLISS, Plumb House, Streator.
<input type="checkbox"/> For Clerk of the Supreme Court, JOHN L. PICKERING, 1106 S. 4th St., Springfield.	<input type="checkbox"/> For Clerk of the Supreme Court, CHRISTOPHER MAMER, 158 Throop St., Chicago.
<input type="checkbox"/> For Trustees of University of Illinois, JAMES E. WHITE, Cor. Elm and Race Sts., Urbana.	<input type="checkbox"/> For Trustees of University of Illinois, MRS. LAURA B. EVANS, Taylorville.
<input type="checkbox"/> JULIA HOLMES SMITH, 491 Dearborn Ave., Chicago.	<input type="checkbox"/> WILLIAM B. MCKINLEY, Champaign.
<input type="checkbox"/> JOHN HUSTON, Blandinsville.	<input type="checkbox"/> L. H. KERRICK, Bloomington.
<input type="checkbox"/> For Clerk of the Appellate Court from 2nd District,	<input type="checkbox"/> For Clerk of the Appellate Court from 2nd District, CHRISTOPHER C. DUFFY, 813 Douglas St., Ottawa.
<input type="checkbox"/> For Representative in Congress 17th District, Z. F. YOST, Pontiac.	<input type="checkbox"/> For Representative in Congress, 17th District, JOHN A. STERLING, 603 E. Chestnut St., Bloomington.
<input type="checkbox"/> For Representatives in General Assembly 16th District, JOHN P. MORAN, 1½ Votes Fairbury	<input type="checkbox"/> For Representatives in General Assembly 16th District, IRA M. LISH, 1½ Votes Saunemin.
<input type="checkbox"/> CHRISTIAN HAASE, 1½ Votes Washburn.	<input type="checkbox"/> JOSIAH KERRICK, 1½ Votes Minonk.
<input type="checkbox"/> For County Judge, THOMAS KENNEDY, Minonk.	<input type="checkbox"/> For County Judge,
<input type="checkbox"/> For County Clerk, ADOLPH WOLTZEN, Clayton.	<input type="checkbox"/> For County Clerk, A. V. S. BAIRD, Eureka.
<input type="checkbox"/> For Sheriff, L. C. GISH, Greene.	<input type="checkbox"/> For Sheriff, GEORGE W. TEGARD, El Paso.
<input type="checkbox"/> For County Treasurer, JOSEPH W. MEEK, Metamora.	<input type="checkbox"/> For County Treasurer, JOHN PETERS, SR., Benson.
<input type="checkbox"/> For County Superintendent of Schools, W. J. WHETZEL, Otto.	<input type="checkbox"/> For County Superintendent of Schools, J. C. HIERONYMUS, Washburn.

Yost Loses 1902 Election for U.S. Congressional Representative

The November 14, 1902, Gibson City Courier reported that John A. Sterling's plurality over Yost, the Democratic candidate for Congress, was 4,282.

The 1904 book, *Official Congressional Directory*, has the following notation about the 1902 election results.

SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT.

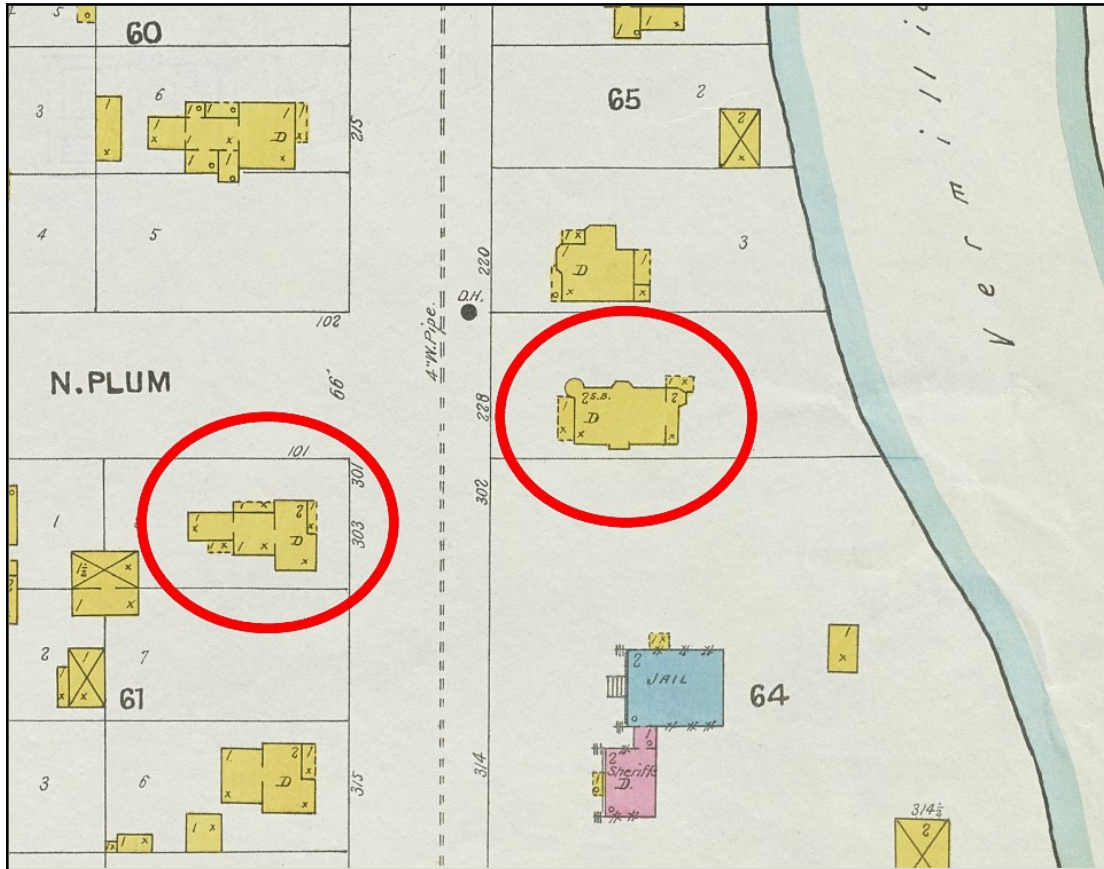
COUNTIES.—Ford, Livingston, Logan, McLean, and Woodford (5 counties).

Population (1900), 178,739.

JOHN A. STERLING, Republican, of Bloomington, was born on a farm near Leroy, Ill., February 1, 1857; attended the public schools, and took the classical course at the Illinois Wesleyan University, graduating in June, 1881, with the degree of A. B., and three years later received the degree of M. A.; after graduation was superintendent of the public schools of Lexington for two years; was admitted to the bar in December, 1884, since which time he has been a member of the law firm of Welty & Sterling, in the active practice of the law at Bloomington. He was State's attorney of McLean County from 1892 to 1896; and a member at large of the Republican State central committee of Illinois from 1896 to 1898; was married May 20, 1886, to Clara M. Irons, of Bloomington; was elected to the Fifty-eighth Congress, receiving 18,331 votes, to 14,040 for Z. F. Yost, Democrat, and 1,344 for William P. Allen, Prohibitionist. Reelected to the Fifty-ninth Congress by a plurality of 10,552.

1903 Sanborn Map Shows Plum Street Gone and the Yost House Built

This map shows the Yost House built where Plum Street used to be south of Water Street. Also shown is the house where the mother of Ella Yost lived across Water Street to the north.



CHAPTER 6

1904 to 1919

Zoath Yost Runs for U.S. Congress Again

The July 1, 1904, Gibson City Courier reported that Zoath Yost was going to run again for election to the U.S. Congress.

Democrats Nominate Congressman

The Democratic Congressional convention for the Seventeenth district was held at Pontiac on Monday. Z. F. Yost of Pontiac was nominated for Congressman without opposition, and Charles Shade, mayor of Lexington, received the nomination for member of the State Board of Equalization.

Zoath Yost Visits His West Virginia Home

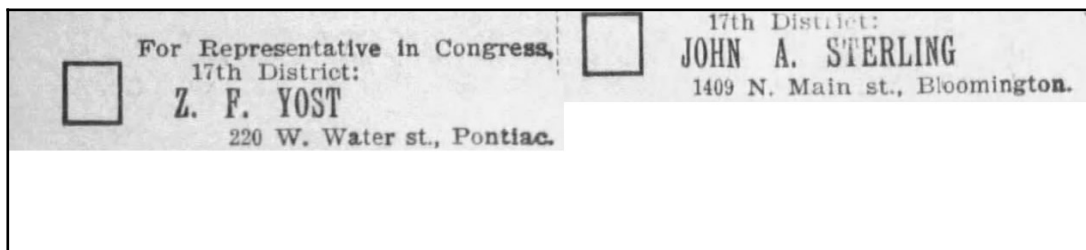
The September 2, 1904, Pantagraph reported that Mr. Yost was visiting his native state.

Hon. Z. F. Yost left Sunday for Fairmont, W. Virginia, on a short business and pleasure trip.

The mother of Zoath Yost, Malinda Yost, was still living at Fairmont, West Virginia in 1904. Zoath Yost likely visited his mother on this trip. Malinda Yost died in 1925 in Fairmont.

Specimen Ballot

The November 3, 1904, Woodford County Journal published a specimen ballot for the election of 1904. The portion of the specimen ballot showing Zoath Yost and his opponent is shown below.



Zoath Yost Loses Again in 1904 Election

The November election proved to be a repeat of the 1902 contest, with John A. Sterling besting Yost once again, this time by a wider margin, 23, 414 votes to 12, 978.

West Virginia Summer Home

The July 7, 1905, Pantagraph reported the Zoath Yost family had a summer home in West Virginia.

Mrs. Z. F. Yost and daughter, accompanied by her aunt, Mrs. Oswald left Wednesday morning for Mountain Lake, West Virginia, where she will join her husband at their summer home and where they will spend the remainder of the summer. Mr. Yost went to that place some time ago.

Zoath Yost Sells Land In West Virginia

The January 15, 1907, edition of the Fairmont West Virginian reported a land sale.

Deed dated December 29, 1906, Zoath F. Yost et ax. To L. B. Underwood, parcel of land in Pawpaw district; consideration \$1,200.

That amount of money would be equivalent to \$40,100 in today's dollars.

Zoath Yost Runs for Pontiac City Attorney Again in 1909

The March 12, 1909, Pantagraph published an article stating who was running for election in the next election. For Pontiac City Attorney, Zoath Yost was the Democratic candidate and B. R. Thompson was the Republican candidate. Zoath Yost lost this election per the April 21, 1909, edition of the Joliet Herald.

Education of Hellene Yost

Determining the details of the educational history of Hellene Yost was a challenging task. Her 1979 obituary summarized her educational history.

Miss Yost, who taught at Pontiac High School and Rivesville, West Virginia, High School, received a bachelor's degree in Greek from Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Virginia, and a master's degree in English from the University of Chicago.

A September 15, 1915, Pantagraph article reported that Hellene Yost was leaving her Pontiac home to attend the University of Chicago.

Miss Hellene Yost, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Z. F. Yost, of this city, left this morning for Chicago, where she enters the Chicago university for the degree of master of arts. Miss Yost graduated with the class of 1914 from the Randolph-Macon Woman's college at Lynchburg, Va., with the bachelor of arts degree.

Using the Google Book Search option, Hellene Yost is mentioned in both the 1922 and 1926 Catalogs issued by the Randolph-Macon Woman's college. Combining the information from her obituary, the 1915 Pantagraph article, and the two catalogs issued by Randolph-Macon Woman's college gives the following educational history of Hellene Yost.

Hellene Yost was born in Pontiac in 1891. She attended Pontiac schools and likely graduated high school in 1910. She then attended the Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia. Hellene graduated with the class of 1914 with a bachelors degree in art.

After graduating from Randolph-Macon College in 1914, she became a teacher at the Rivesville, West Virginia High School. Although the 1915 Pantagraph article recounted that Hellene started to attend the University of Chicago in the fall of 1915, she must have changed her mind and continued to teach high school in Rivesville.

While teaching high school, Hellene started attending the summer sessions at the University of Chicago in the summers of 1916 and 1917. In 1918, Hellene graduated from the University of Chicago with a Master's Degree in English. Hellene then taught high school at Pontiac during the 1918-1919 school year. Hellene returned to the University of Chicago in 1920 and 1921.

Hellene returned to Randolph-Macon for the 1921-1922 school year and was an instructor in Latin and Greek. Hellene returned and took classes at the University of Chicago during 1922.

There are no known records which indicate Hellene attended any more colleges after 1922.

Randolph-Macon Woman's College

Wikipedia recounts the history of this college.

Randolph College is a private liberal arts and sciences college in Lynchburg, Virginia. Founded in 1891 as Randolph-Macon Woman's College, it was renamed on July 1, 2007, when it became coeducational.

The college offers 32 majors; 42 minors; pre-professional programs in law, medicine, veterinary medicine, engineering physics, and teaching; and a dual degree program in engineering. Undergraduate degrees offered include the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor of Fine Arts. Randolph also offers three graduate degrees, the Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, and the Master of Arts in Coaching and Sport Leadership.

Randolph College is an NCAA Division III school competing in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC). The college fields varsity teams in six men's and eight women's sports.

Notable alumnae include author **Pearl S. Buck**, who won the Nobel Prize and Pulitzer Prize, food and travel author Frances Mayes, former U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln, and CNN senior political correspondent Candy Crowley.

History

The college was founded by William Waugh Smith, then-president of Randolph-Macon College, under Randolph-Macon's charter after he failed to convince R-MC to become co-educational. Randolph-Macon Woman's College has historic ties to the United Methodist Church. After many attempts to find a location for Randolph-Macon Woman's College, the city of Lynchburg donated 50 acres for the purpose of establishing a women's college. In 1916, it became the first women's college in the South to earn a Phi Beta Kappa charter. Beginning in 1953, the two colleges were governed by separate boards of trustees.

Pearl Buck, the famous writer, was a classmate of Hellene Yost at Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg. The 1922 catalog for the college shows both Hellene Yost and Pearl Buck graduating in the Class of 1914.

Pearl Buck

Wikipedia has a biography for Pearl Buck.

Pearl S. Buck

Pearl Sydenstricker Buck (June 26, 1892 - March 6, 1973) was an American writer and novelist. She is best known for *The Good Earth*, the best-selling novel in the United States in 1931 and 1932 and which won her the Pulitzer Prize in 1932. In 1938, Buck became the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature "for her rich and truly epic descriptions of peasant life in China" and for her "masterpieces", two memoir-biographies of her missionary parents.

Buck was born in West Virginia, but in October 1892, her parents took their 4-month-old baby to China. As the daughter of missionaries and later as a missionary herself, Buck spent most of her life before 1934 in Zhenjiang, with her parents, and in Nanjing, with her first husband. She and her parents spent their summers in a villa in Kuling, Mountain Lu, Jiujiang, and it was during this annual pilgrimage that the young girl decided to become a writer.

She graduated from Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia, then returned to China. From 1914 to 1932, after marrying John Lossing Buck, she served as a Presbyterian missionary, but she came to doubt the need for foreign missions. Her views became controversial during the Fundamentalist-Modernist controversy, leading to her resignation.

After returning to the United States in 1935, she married the publisher Richard J. Walsh and continued writing prolifically. She became an activist and prominent advocate of the rights of women and racial equality, and wrote widely on Chinese and Asian cultures, becoming particularly well known for her efforts on behalf of Asian and mixed-race adoption.



Pearl S. Buck circa 1972

The Good Earth

Wikipedia has a description of the most famous book that Pearl Buck wrote.

The Good Earth

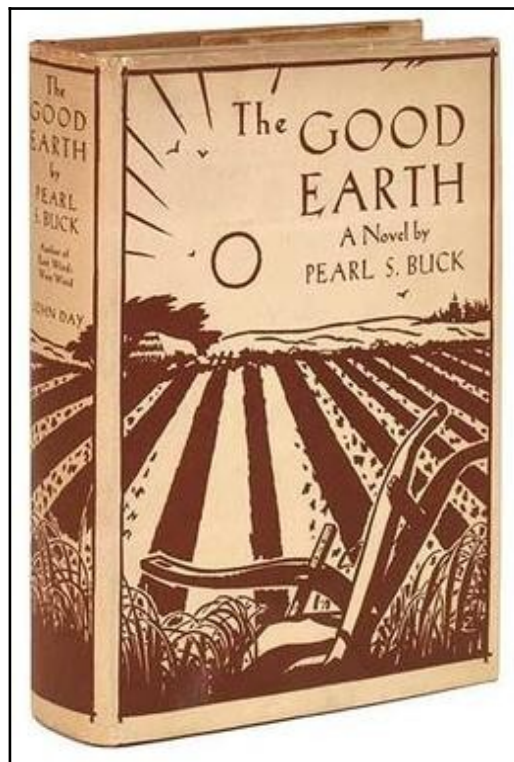
The Good Earth is a historical fiction novel by Pearl S. Buck published in 1931 that dramatizes family life in a Chinese village in the early 20th century. It is the first book in her House of Earth trilogy, continued in Sons (1932) and A House Divided (1935). It was the best-selling novel in the United States in both 1931 and 1932, won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1932, and was influential in Buck's winning the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1938.

Buck, who grew up in China as the daughter of American missionaries, wrote the book while living in China and drew on her first-hand observation of Chinese village life. The realistic and sympathetic depiction

of the farmer Wang Lung and his wife O-Lan helped prepare Americans of the 1930s to consider Chinese as allies in the coming war with Japan.

The novel was included in Life Magazine's list of the 100 outstanding books of 1924-1944. In 2004, the book returned to the bestseller list when chosen by the television host Oprah Winfrey for Oprah's Book Club.

A Broadway stage adaptation was produced by the Theatre Guild in 1932, written by the father and son playwriting team of Owen and Donald Davis, but critics gave a poor reception, and it ran only 56 performances. However, the 1937 film, *The Good Earth*, which was based on the stage version, was more successful.



Zoath Yost Wins Lawsuit and Stops City of Pontiac from Polluting Vermilion River

The February 12, 1915, issue of the Pantagraph published a story about Zoath Yost winning this lawsuit.

Must Not Pollute River

Attorney Z. F. Yost, who represents the plaintiffs in the complaint of Peter J. Peterson and others against the city of Pontiac and others for pollution of the waters of the Vermilion river, today received word from the secretary of the state rivers and harbors commission that the commission yesterday entered an order commanding that the city cease pollution of the river on or before February 9, 1916. This says that the city of Pontiac must, within a year provide some means for purifying the sewage before it is discharged into the river.

The home of Z. F. Yost was on the north side of the Vermilion River just west of the Mill Street bridge.

Education of Catharine Yost

Her 1979 obituary recounts her educational background.

Miss Yost was born in Pontiac, Sept. 16, 1893, a daughter of Z. F. and Ella Louise (Hartshorn) Yost. She attended Pontiac schools, Randolph-Macon Woman's College at Lynchburg, Va., the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts for a term and the Art Institute of Chicago for two years.

Since Catharine Yost was born in 1893, she likely graduated from high school in Pontiac 18 years later in 1911. If she attended and finished college at Randolph-Macon, she should have graduated in the class of 1915 or 1916.

The 1922 and 1924 catalogs for the Randolph-Macon Woman's College at Lynchburg, Virginia, do not list her as a student or alumnus.

Internet searches of both the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts and the Art Institute of Chicago were not successful in finding records indicating she attended these schools. At this time, it is not known if Catharine Yost received any degrees from Randolph-Macon, the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts, or from the Chicago Art Institute.

Education of J. Paul Yost

His 1988 obituary recounts his educational background.

Mr. Yost was born Jan. 8, 1897, in Pontiac, a son of Z. F. and Ella Hartshorn Yost. Two sisters preceded him in death.

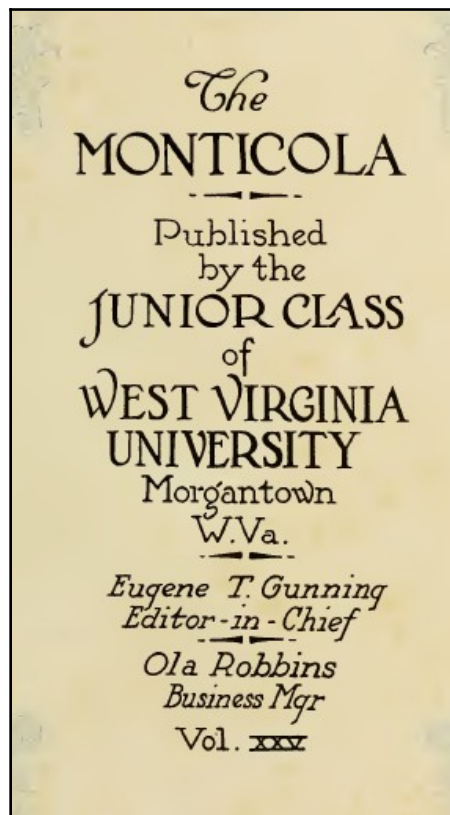
Mr. Yost graduated from Pontiac Township High School and was a 1920 graduate of the University of Chicago.

An attorney, Mr. Yost had practiced in West Virginia.

Since Paul Yost was born in 1897, he likely graduated from high school in Pontiac 18 years later, or about 1915 or 1916. If he entered the University of Chicago after high school, he likely graduated four years later in 1920.

In the Spring of 1984 issue of a magazine sent to University of Chicago alumni, J. Paul Yost was mentioned. The magazine recounted that J. Paul Yost, 1920 Bachelor's degree in philosophy, lived in Pontiac, Illinois, and he wrote that University students or graduates are always welcome to visit him.

The 1923 yearbook for West Virginia University was titled The Monticola.



This yearbook noted that J. Paul Yost was a member of the Class of 1923 and he belonged to the Alpha Chapter, the Torch and Serpent Society, and the Phi Sigma Nu.

J. Paul Yost was vice-president of the Dramatic Club. He was also a member of the second year law class at West Virginia University.

After graduating with a law degree from West Virginia University, Paul Yost apparently decided to continue in West Virginia and practice law. The June 5, 1925, issue of the Pontiac Daily Leader had an article about the status of Paul Yost.

Paul Yost, who is practicing law in Huntington, West Virginia, is spending several days here visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Z. F. Yost.

1916 Charity Concert in Pontiac

Mrs. Zoath Yost was very active in the Pontiac community. The April 28, 1916, Pantagraph reported on a Pontiac charity event.

Concert at Hospital

A short Easter program was given at St. James' hospital this afternoon under the auspices of the Amateur Musical Club. It was in charge of Mrs. Z. F. Yost and Rev. J. H. Boose and included solos by Miss Martha McCormick, Mrs. Dale Pillsbury and Dick Shackleton; a duet by Mrs. Lillian Higgins Wilder and Rev. J. H. Poose and a quartet by Mesdames L. W. Tuesburg and W. L. Shaw and Messrs. Royal Erickson and Dick Shackleton.

Pontiac Yost Family Visiting West Virginia in 1917

The April 20, 1917, edition of The West Virginian published an article about the Pontiac Yost family visiting the area.

Mrs. Z. F. Yost is spending a few weeks with her daughter, Miss Helene Yost, at Rivesville. Mr. Paul Yost arrived here Thursday and will spend a few weeks with his grandmother, Mrs. Malinda Yost. Miss Helene Yost was visiting her grandmother, Mrs. Malinda Yost, Thursday.

Paul Yost Registers for World War I Draft

Serial No. **169** Registration No. **172**

1 Name in full **John Paul Yost**

2 Home address (No.) **Pontiac Ill** (Street) (City or town) (State)

3 Date of birth **January 9 1897** (Month) (Day) (Year)

4 Where were you born? **Pontiac Ill USA** (City or town) (State) (Nation)

5 I am: 1. A native of the United States. 2. A naturalized citizen. 3. An alien. 4. An alien enemy. 5. A person of unknown status. (Strike out lines or words not applicable)

6 If not a citizen of what Nation are you a citizen of? **USA**

7 Father's birthplace **Marion Co West Virginia** (City or town) (State or province) (Nation)

8 Name of employer **Chicago University** (City or town) (State)

9 Name of nearest relative **J H Yost** (City or town) (State or Nation)

10 Race—White, Non-white, or unknown. (Strike out words not applicable)

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

P. M. G. O. Form 1 (line)

John Paul Yost (Signature or Mark of Registrant)

REGISTRATION CARD. 2-272

REGISTRAR'S REPORT **12-5-D-B**

1 **Crown** (Strike out words not applicable)

2 Color of eyes **Crown** Color of hair **Crown**

3 Has parade last arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he palpably physically disabled (specify)? **no**

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

H E Gernane (Signature of Registrar)

June 1 1918 (Date of Registration)

Local Board for the County of **Livingston, State of Illinois.**

Pontiac, Ill.

(The stamp of the local board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this line.)

Zoath Yost Back in Politics in 1919

The State of Illinois decided to call for a constitutional convention starting in 1920. Two delegates were elected from each of the 51 senatorial districts. The Democratic Party nominated Zoath Yost to be their candidate for a delegate to the convention.

The October 30, 1919, Woodford County Journal printed a specimen ballot for this election.

SPECIMEN BALLOT		
of all the candidates to be voted for in the several election districts in Woodford County, Illinois, at an Election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, A. D. 1919.		
Attest: <i>C. S. Holman, County Clerk.</i>		
<input type="radio"/> REPUBLICAN PARTY	<input type="radio"/> DEMOCRATIC PARTY	<input type="radio"/> SOCIALIST PARTY
For Delegate to Constitutional Convention Sixteenth Senatorial District (Vote For Two)	For Delegate to Constitutional Convention Sixteenth Senatorial District (Vote For Two)	For Delegate to Constitutional Convention Sixteenth Senatorial District (Vote For Two)
<input type="checkbox"/> CHARLES H. IRELAND	<input type="checkbox"/> Z. F. YOST	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> H. E. TORRANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> MAGOON BARNES	<input type="checkbox"/>

Z. F. Yost received 599 votes and lost this election.

CHAPTER 7

1920 to 1923

1920 U.S. Census

In this census, Zoath Yost was 56 and his occupation was lawyer. Zoath lived on West Water Street with his wife Ella who was 53. Hellene Yost was a high school teacher and was 28. Catharine Yost had “none” for her occupation and was 26. J. Paul Yost was 23 and his occupation was student.

Mother of Wife of Zoath Yost Dies in 1920

The June 5, 1920, Pantagraph, published the obituary for Mrs. Catherine Hartshorn, mother of Ella Louise Hartshorn, wife of Zoath Yost.

Mrs. Hartshorn Dies

Mrs. Catherine Hartshorn, a resident of Pontiac since the sixties, died at the family residence, 303 West Water Street, at one o'clock this afternoon, death due to infirmities of old age following illness for over a year.

Catherine Williams was born Jan. 11, 1840, at West Wheeling, Va., daughter of James and Catherine Williams and continued to make the place of birth her residence until the time of marriage. Securing her education at Wheeling, Va., on April 19, 1895, united in marriage to Dr. T. C. Hartshorn at Bellaire, Ohio. Following marriage they took up their residence at Chicago, coming to Pontiac in the sixties. Mrs. Hartshorn leaves one son, Frederick C. Hartshorn, one daughter, Mrs. Ella Yost of this city and three grandchildren. Dr. Hartshorn died in this city November 22, 1890. Mrs. Hartshorn was a great grand daughter of General Williams, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and a member of the Constitutional Congress. She was also a great grand daughter of Governor Jonathan Trumbull of Connecticut.

There is one mistake in this obituary. It states that Catherine Williams married T. C. Hartshorn in 1895. They were actually married in 1859. Whomever wrote the obituary transposed 1859 to be 1895.

The house that Catherine Hartshorn lived in at 303 West Water Street remained in the Yost family until Paul Yost sold it in the 1960s to make room for the new bank building. It is assumed the Yost family rented out this house after the death of Mrs. Hartshorn.

Mrs. Zoath Yost Officer in Pontiac Woman's Club

The October 9, 1920, Pantagraph reported that Mrs. Ella Yost was the second vice-president of the Pontiac Woman's Club.

Zoath Yost Loses 1921 Bodison Bubony Murder Case

In January of 1921, a murder case was tried in Pontiac and Zoath Yost was the lawyer for the man charged with murder, Mike Herek. The January 21, 1921, Pantagraph ran a story about the trial.

Claimed Shooting Accidental

The murder of Bodison Bubony, for which Herek was convicted, occurred at Budd on the night of August 3, 1920. Bubony and Herek were members of the same section gang and with others had visited Streater during the evening. Upon returning to Budd, Herek discovered the loss of his pocketbook containing a sum of money. He accused Bubony of taking it, and demanded its return.

Bubony denied knowledge of the missing pocketbook. During the altercation Bubony was killed by the discharge of a shotgun in Herek's hands. During the trial Herek claimed the discharge of the gun was accidental.

Several witnesses testified, however, that Herek, at the time of the shooting, acknowledged that he had killed Bubony, because he believed Bubony had stolen his money. It was shown at the time of the shooting that the missing pocketbook was found in the car which Herek returned from Streater.

After the jury convicted Herek, Zoath Yost requested a new trial because one of the jury members in the jury room had made an improper test of the gun. Judge Patton denied the motion by Zoath Yost for a new trial. The judge sentenced Herek to one day of solitary confinement then to serve the rest of his natural life at hard labor at the Joliet prison.

Paul Yost Stars in College Club Play that tours West Virginia Cities in 1921

While he was attending law school at West Virginia University, Paul Yost was an active member of Dramatic Club. In August and September of 1921, the Dramatic Club traveled and put on plays in several West Virginia cities. Paul Yost was one of the lead actors in these plays.

The October 23, 1921, edition of the Charleston Daily Mail published a story about the traveling college plays. The story noted that J. Paul Yost of Pontiac, Illinois, had been elected to the position of Vice-President of the Dramatic Club for the next year.

Zoath Yost Loses Election for Livingston County Judge in 1922

The April 17, 1922 edition of the Pantagraph reported the results of that election. For the office of County Judge, Zoath Yost, the Democratic candidate, received 379 votes. Ray Sesler, the Democratic candidate, received 5,729 votes and won the election.

Zoath Yost Owned Land in West Virginia

The June 5, 1922 edition of The West Virginian reported that Zoath F. Yost owned 17 acres in Big Paw Paw and owed \$2,700 in property taxes.

The same article recounted that Malinda A. Yost, mother of Zoath Yost, owned 10.51 acres in Big Paw Paw and owed \$600 in property taxes.

Piano Recital at the Zoath Yost House

The August 9, 1922, edition of the Pantagraph reported on a piano recital in Pontiac.

Brilliant Program

A number of guest were delightfully entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Z. F. Yost last evening when their nephew, Lawrence Creath Ammons, presented his artist-pupil, Robert Metzler, who gave a selected program on the piano.

CHAPTER 8

1924 to 1929

Brother of Wife of Zoath Yost Dies in Pontiac

The January 26, 1924, Pantagraph published a story about the death of Fred Hartshorn.

Pontiac Pharmacist Dies at Veterans' Hospital in Dwight

Pontiac, Jan. 25—(Special.)—Word was received in Pontiac this afternoon of the death of Fred Hartshorn, of this city, at the government hospital in Dwight, where he was engaged as pharmacist.

It was stated that he was taken ill during some time last night and that when he did not arise this morning at his customary hour officials of the hospital investigated and found him in serious condition.

Mrs. Z. F. Yost, a sister of Mr. Hartshorn, and her son, Paul, went to Dwight this forenoon when informed of the illness of Mr. Hartshorn and were with him when he died.

Mr. Hartshorn had spent practically all of his life in this city. He was a graduate pharmacist and was engaged in that capacity with the United States veterans at the time of his death.

Ella Yost Inherits Her Brother's Estate

The January 29, 1924, Pantagraph ran a story about the estate of Fred Hartshorn.

Will Admitted to Probate

The will of the late Fred Hartshorn was admitted to probate yesterday by Judge Ray Sesler in the probate court. The will leaves all of his property both real and personal to his sister, Mrs. Ella Yost, for the period of her natural life. Following her death it is to be divided equally between her children, Hellene Louise, Catharine Virginia, and John Paul Yost. Mrs. Yost is made executrix of the estate. The inventory of the estate has not been filed. The will was written June 20, 1920 and was witnessed by J. G. Whitson and Dr. Priestman.

Fred Hartshorn never married. On his gravestone, the name is Frederick C. Hartshorn. His middle name was Catlin, which was the last name of the famous painter.

Law School Classmate Visits Zoath Yost

The April 17, 1924, Pantagraph published a story about a friend of Zoath Yost visiting him in Pontiac.

Bishop and Lawyer Classmates

The visit of Bishop W. F. Anderson, a presiding bishop of the Methodist Episcopal church and residing at Cincinnati, Ohio, was especially pleasing to Attorney Z. F. Yost. The bishop and Mr. Yost were schoolmates in their boyhood days.

Zoath Yost Makes Another Attempt to be Elected U.S. Congressman

The July 3, 1924, Gibson City Courier announced that Zoath Yost was again running for election as a U.S. Congressman.

—The Democratic Congressional Convention for the Seventeenth district was held at Pontiac on Monday. Z. F. Yost of Pontiac was nominated for Congressman without opposition, and Charles Shade, mayor of Lexington, received the nomination for member of the State Board of Equalization.

Zoath Yost lost this election.

Mrs. Ella Yost Member of the Pontiac Twentieth Century Club

The October 29, 1924, Pantagraph published a story about this social club in Pontiac.

Silver Jubilee

The Twentieth Century Club, one of the pioneer literary organizations of Pontiac, were entertained yesterday afternoon by Mrs. Alice McClaughry at her home on East Howard street. At this time plans were laid for the silver anniversary of the founding of the organization which occurs in 1925.

Mrs. Ella Yost gave a very interesting book review during the course of the afternoon. Two members were received into the club during the afternoon. Mrs. Gladys Erickson and Mrs. Esther Thornton.

Officers elected for the ensuing year were: President, Mrs. Bertha Fisher; first vice-president, Mrs. Louise Pearre; second vice-president, Mrs. Helen Long; secretary, Mrs. Lina Bawden; treasurer, Mrs. Harriet Fischler.

Livingston County Historical Society Formed in 1924

This organization was incorporated in late 1924. One of the founding members was Judge L. W. (Wilbur) Tuesburg.

Zoath Yost Helps Rescue Two Men in Capsized Boat on the Vermilion

The October 5, 1926, Pantagraph published a story about two men in a boat who had to be rescued on the Vermilion River near the home of Zoath Yost.

A Narrow Escape

L. E. Bertram and Horace Larder had a narrow escape yesterday afternoon when the motor boat in which they were returning from a hunting trip to the Vermilion river, capsized after hitting the swinging bridge near the Pontiac shoe factory.

The two had passed under the south end of the bridge on their way up the river in the morning and when coming back they thought that it would be safe to go under the bridge at the north end. The boat hit the bridge and turned over, throwing the two men into the flood-swollen river. Larder swam under the bridge and climbed onto the bridge from the other side. Bertman, who could not swim, hung on to the bridge until he was lifted from the water by some men who happened to be near.

Z. F. Yost, who happened to see the boat floating down the river at the rear of his residence on West Water street, brought it to shore. The oars and the two guns which they had taken with them, were the only losses.

Zoath Yost would have been 63 years of age when this boating accident occurred.

Paul Yost Involved with Pontiac Group Conducting a Play in Bloomington

The March 16, 1927, Pantagraph published a story about a Pontiac group conducting a play in Bloomington.

Pontiac Group Gives Three One-Act Plays

Bloomington's Community Players are not alone in their work of presenting amateur plays for members. The Pontiac Players, an organization of Pontiac people interested in dramatics and theatrical productions, stated three one-act plays at a recent meeting.

"Old Walnut," the first of the sketches, presented a scene taken from current life and showed the conflict between youthful ideas and Victorian ideals as applied to the use of certain antique furniture. The cast included

Paul Yost, Mrs. E. A. Simmons, Mrs. Edna Bentley and Leonard N. Nelson.

“Columbine,” another drama of modern youth, was presented by Mrs. Eve Burns, Martha Adams and Dr. Paul E. Baldwin. The third play of the evening was “Irene Obliges,” a story of an English slavey. Mrs. Gran Armstrong, Mrs. Vera Anderson and Paul Yost composed the cast.

Ella Yost and the Woman's Club

The April 15, 1927, Pantagraph published an article about the Pontiac Woman's Club.

PONTIAC STUDY GROUP ENJOYS A MEETING

Mrs. H. J. Mies entertained the study department of the Pontiac Woman's Club Tuesday afternoon, 25 members being in attendance.

Mrs. F. J. Spaulding gave a paper on “Industrial Development in the State of Illinois,” Miss Hannah Spafford and Mrs. Z. F. Yost leading the ensuing discussion. A review of the book, “Ways of Escape” by Noel Forrest was given by Mrs. J. G. Young. Mrs. Karl Fisher reviewed the important events of the past month.

Paul Yost in Theater Guild from 1928 to 1932

In a 1984 book produced by the State of Illinois, Paul Yost stated that he was in the Theater Guild from 1928 to 1932. He stated that at that time he was looking for talented actors that could be used in plays that he produced.

The 1993 book titled More Theatre: M-Z by Alvin H. Marill recounts that Paul Yost was an actor in two Broadway plays.

Zoath Yost Finds Dead Body Floating in the Vermilion

The December 31, 1928, Pantagraph published a story about a dead body being found by Zoath Yost in Pontiac.

Several events of major importance occupied the law officials of the county. The first was the disappearance of George Crawford, cattle dealer. His body was subsequently found by Z. F. Yost floating in the Vermilion river near the south side cemetery. The manner of death has never been fully explained.

Paul Yost in Play for 1929 Pontiac Chautauqua

The August 4, 1929, Pantagraph ran an article about the various events scheduled to occur in the upcoming Chautauqua to be held at Pontiac.

A feature of the 1929 assembly of Chautauqua is "The Queen's Husband," a three act comedy-drama by Robert E. Sherwood to be presented Monday evening by the Pontiac Players, under the direction of J. Paul Yost, who also plays the title role.

CHAPTER 9

1930 to 1934

The Great Depression

The Great Depression began with the U.S. stock market crash on October 24, 1929. This depression was the longest, deepest, and most widespread of the 20th century. It lasted about ten years from 1929 to 1939.

In 1930, Zoath Yost was 67 and his wife Ella was 64 years of age. Daughter Hellene was 39, daughter Catharine was 37, and son Paul was 33 years of age.

Ella Yost Owned 160 Acres in Yates Township

The May 10, 1930, edition of the Pantagraph reported the landowners in Yates Township and how much they paid in property taxes. It was reported in this article that Ella Yost owned 160 acres in Yates Township in McLean County.

Hellene Yost Involved with Pontiac Township High School Alumni Association

The May 11, 1930, edition of the Pantagraph published an article about the Pontiac Alumni Association.

Pontiac High School Alumni Plan Annual Meeting on June 10

PONTIAC, May 11. —The Alumni association of the Pontiac township high school will hold its annual meeting June 10. The banquet will be at 6:30 p. m. in the Methodist Episcopal church.

Immediately following the dinner, a dance will be held at the high school gymnasium. Chairmen of the various committees have been appointed as follows: General Chairman, George Adams; dinner, Mrs. Harold Edwards and John Hagarty; reservation, Helene Yost; entertainment, L. W. Tuesburg.

Officers this year were: George Adams, president; Helen Harris Edwards, vice president; Helene Yost, secretary; Rachel Roth, treasurer; Esther Thornton, Ronald Meeker, Ann Myers, John Hagarty and L. W. Tuesburg, board of directors.

Paul Yost Tours Europe

The September 6, 1930, Pantagraph published a story which mentions that Paul Yost recently finished a tour of Europe.

400 Attend Guest Night Performance of Pontiac Players

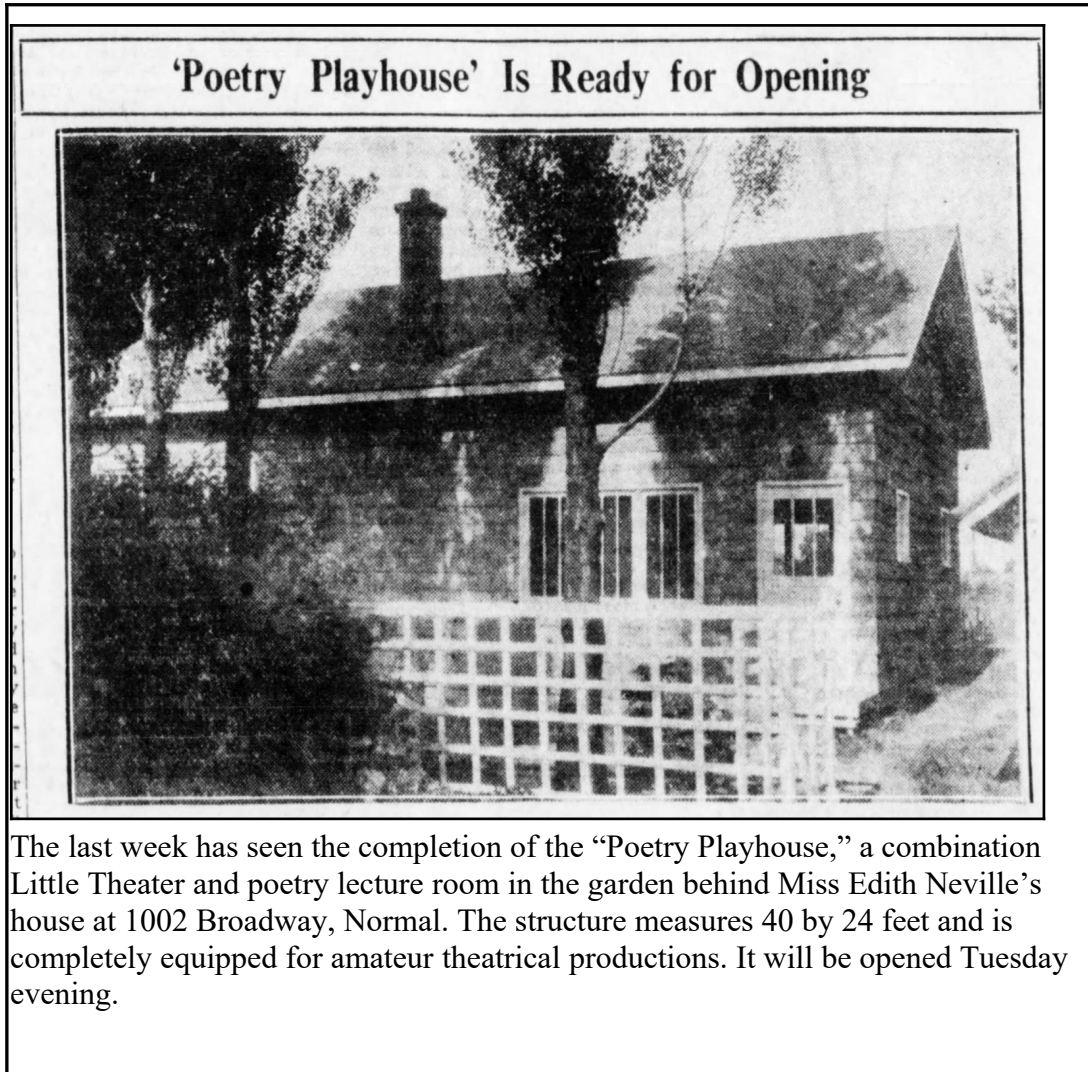
PONTIAC, Sept. 6.—The Pontiac Players, local dramatic club, were hosts at their third annual guest night program and social hour Thursday evening at the Methodist Episcopal educational building. An audience of 400 guest were present at the entertainment.

J. Paul Yost, of Pontiac, spoke on the highlights of European drama as observed from his recent tour of Europe. Two one act plays were presented under the direction of Mrs. Madge Grove Dargan. The first play was "A Marriage Has Been Arranged," a dramatic scene of society life written by Alfred Sutro. Vera Anderson and John McConoha took the two roles. A one act comedy, "The Fourth Mrs. Phillips," was given with E. A. Simmons, Helen Johnston, Martha Hills, Byrna Shepard, Eva Burns, I. M. Johns and Robert Johnston taking the characters.

The guest night program of the Players' Club closed the season. Officers for 1931 have been chosen, as follows: Miss Helene Yost, president; Mrs. A. B. Middleton, vice president; Miss Alice Rachel Miller, secretary; Mrs. Robert Johnston, treasurer.

Normal, Illinois Woman Builds “Poetry Playhouse” in Her Back Yard

The June 8, 1930, Pantagraph published a story about a unique new building in Normal, Illinois.



On October 14, 1930, The Twentieth Century Club in Pontiac drove from Pontiac to Normal to visit this new facility. Ella Yost was a member of this club and she went on this interesting trip.

Paul Yost Working in Chicago in a Play

The November 7, 1930, Pantagraph published a story about Paul Yost working in Chicago.

Paul Yost spent Sunday in this city a guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Z. F. Yost. Paul is assistant director of the musical revue, "Garrick Gayities," being produced at the Blackstone theatre in Chicago.

Pontiac Players Club Creates Play for Children to View

The December 27, 1930, Pantagraph published a story about a new play being done for children to watch. Hellene Yost was an actress in the play and directed it also.

Pontiac Children Get to See First Little Theater Production

PONTIAC. Dec. 27.—The Parent-Teacher association of the Central school, will present one of the outstanding events of the Christmas holidays, when the "Wizard of Oz", will be produced by the Pontiac Players Club, Dec. 30 and 31 in the educational building of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The performance Dec. 30 will be in the form of a matinee at 4:30 p. m. for the benefit of the children to give them an opportunity to see a play, the story of which most of them are familiar with.

For some time the Players' Club has had under consideration a little theater moment for juveniles and this presentation will be the first step in that direction.

The cast includes; Alice Rachel Miller, Bess Huseman, Owen Thomas, Haring Luhring, Albert Dean, Francis Thompson, Stephen Adist, E. A. Simmons, Ivan Leonard, Edwin Nichols, Robert Kay, Hellene Yost, Vera Anderson, Milton Bremer, Hobart Vandeventer, John Murphy, Billy Harris, Thomas Coup, Donald Wren and a group of high school girls.

Miss Hellen Yost, president of the club, will direct the play.

This article recounted that children were familiar with the story of the Wizard of Oz. This was likely because the children's novel *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* was written by Frank Baum (1856-1919) in 1900.

The movie, the Wizard of Oz, one of the best-loved movies in history, was first released on August 25, 1939. Based on the 1900 children's novel *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, by L. Frank Baum (1856-1919), the film starred Judy Garland as the young Kansas farm girl

Dorothy, who, after being knocked unconscious in a tornado, dreams about following a yellow brick road, alongside her dog Toto, to the Emerald City to meet the Wizard of Oz.

Paul Yost a Pallbearer for a Friend

The January 6, 1931, Pantagraph published an obituary for Katherine Long Fullen. She was in the same Pontiac high school class as Paul Yost.

Fullen Funeral

PONTIAC, Jan. 6.—The funeral of Katherine Long Fullen was held Monday at the home of Mrs. Lida S. Long, East Water Street, the Rev. H. H. Waltmire, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church, and Dr. John H. Ryan, chaplain of the reformatory, conducting. Special music was furnished by Royal Erickson, with Grace Scatterday Bone of Peoria accompanying. Pallbearers were Paul Yost, F. L. Smith, G. C. Armstrong, Carl Keck, Wayne Mitton and John Ryan Jr. Burial was in the Pontiac city cemetery.

Hellene Yost Vice-President of Pontiac Players Club

The October 22, 1931, Pantagraph published an article about this Pontiac club.

Pontiac Players Club Hold Initial Meeting

PONTIAC.—The Pontiac Players Club held its first meeting of the season Tuesday night at the Elks Club here. Attorney E. A. Simmons reviewed the drama "Allison's House," by Susan Glaspell which was awarded the Pulitzer prize for 1930-1931. Miss Martha Adams spoke on the life of Susan Glaspell.

Officers elected are: Mrs. Helen Frink Johnston, president; Miss Hellene Yost, vice-president; Mrs. A. T. Anderson, secretary; Stephen Adsit, treasurer; directors, Mrs. C. M. Dargan and Dr. R. P. Armbruster.

Hellene Yost Exhibits Works at Pontiac Art Show

The January 16, 1932, Pantagraph, published a story about an art display in Pontiac.

Pontiac Women Sponsor Exhibit of Fine Arts to Bring Out Home Talent

14 ARTISTS ENTER WORK

Hammered Silver, Wrought Iron Take Places Beside Oils and Crayons.

PONTIAC - This city knows more of its artists as the result of an exhibit sponsored by the fine arts department of the Pontiac Woman's Club. In the collection exhibited were the works of 14 individuals who have achieved more than passing note in the world of art. Water color sketches, oil paintings, book-plates, decorated porcelain, sepia sketches, tinted photographs, medallions, wrought iron work, studies in design and interior decorating, hammered silverware, rings and necklaces of silver and crayon drawings were included in the display for which the rooms of the Elks Club were used.

The display was not arranged for the purpose of award, members of the Women's Club said, but to promote a general interest in art and to bring to public attention some of the works of artists known better afar than at home.

Ideal Head Interesting.

Miss Ida Twidall, former art instructor in Pontiac township high school, entered some water color sketches of Rock River scenes and some bookplate designs that earned much comment.

An ideal head on Dresden porcelain slab 9x12 inches was another interesting piece. It was the work of Miss Ida Woodrow. She showed, also, a water color landscape. Miss Woodrow and her sister, Miss Ella Woodrow, exhibited a large landscape in oil that drew many expressions of applause.

One of the pioneer painters of Livingston county, Moore Foster, dropped his commercial pursuits long enough to enter three large oil landscapes. He has been known for his woodland scenes and for some rare sketches in oil of scenes along the Vermilion River.

John M McGregor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis McGregor, who now is attached to the archaeological department of the University of Arizona, caught the modernistic style for his presentation of oil studies of rock formations. The canvasses credited to him were acclaimed by some to be the outstanding work of the exhibit.

Wrought Iron Pleases.

A Vermilion River scene painted in 1880 by Mrs. Fannie Smith, another pioneer in the art development of Pontiac, was shown. Two sepia sketches by Miss Katherine Yost, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Z. F. Yost, earned her a place in the comment. One was of her brother, Paul. She also had a miniature porcelain with ideal figure. Several tinted photographs displayed her ability in a field of which she is now studying in Chicago.

Mrs. Frank I. Miller, formerly a Bloomington resident, exhibited two porcelain medallion miniatures and a recent figure painting.

Wrought-iron door knockers and hinges formed a part of the display entered by Thomas Googerty, who is in charge of the school of applied arts and crafts at the Illinois state reformatory here. He had some oil paintings, also, and a Madonna in black crayon that aroused more than casual interest.

A study of design was shown by Miss Evelyn Armstrong Berry, a former student of the National Academy of Fine Arts of Chicago.

There was a quaint cottage and flower garden in water color with much color in an 8x12 painting by Mrs. Lavina Richardson Myers. Mrs. Myers was chairman of the committee in charge of the display.

Hint More Exhibits.

What was regarded as a most unusual showing was a hammered silver collection executed by Harrison H. Smith. Pieces drawing especial attention were a large silver bowl and large silver salad forks and spoons, all of hand hammered ware.

A collection of silver rings and necklaces by Mrs. Anna Myers was another unusual art offering.

There were three water color sketches of California and Florida subjects shown by Mrs. Bertha Rollins, whose name also has been closely identified with local literary circles.

Armand Barron, a musician, dropped his instruments long enough to execute two large figure heads in crayon, the finished pieces being nearly 12 by 24 inches.

Several hundred persons witnessed the exhibit, which was opened only for the one day, Tuesday, but which, it is expected, may become the forerunner of many more.

Paul Yost a Collector of Rare Books

The March 19, 1932, edition of the Pantagraph published a story about an exhibition of rare books in Pontiac.

PONTIAC HAS BOOK VARIETY

Many Rare Old Volumes Come to Light as Result of Exhibits

PONTIAC. — Pontiac citizens hold old books in high esteem. There are scores of volumes here that approach the antique class in age and in some instances hold high value to book collectors seeking rare subjects. They were put before book lovers recently at an exhibit sponsored by the Fine Arts department of the Woman's Club of Pontiac.

Among these old books are subjects of wide range embracing religion, poetry, biography, nature, fiction, education, law, history, travel, etiquette, military tactics, and science.

Much interest was aroused in a first edition set of five volumes of the "Life of Washington," written by John Marshall in 1804 and is in the possession of Paul Yost.

Two volumes of "History of France" (1796) belonging to Paul Yost were contrasted in size with a "History of the Bible" measuring 1x2 inches, bound in leather, shown by Mrs. E. F. Rittenhouse.

Fire at the Yost Farm in Graymont

The April 17, 1932, Pantagraph published a story about this fire.

Collie Dog Barks to Prevent Loss of Home by Fire

GRAYMONT — The barking of a collie dog prevented a serious fire at the home of Mrs. William Wrightain on the Z. F. Yost farm near here Friday. Mrs. Wrightain and her son Orville discovered flames on the roof of their home when they investigated the persistent barking of the dog. Neighbors with buckets and fire extinguishers aided them and they controlled the fire with only a minor loss covered by insurance.

Hellene Yost Active in Pontiac Woman's Club

The October 4, 1932, Pantagraph published an article about the many activities planned by this club. Hellene Yost gave a book review about "The Iliad". This club was relatively large for a small town in that it had 200 members.

Z. F. Yost Owned 160 Acres in 1932

The August 23, 1932, Pantagraph published an article about special tax assessments in McLean County. This article said that Z. F. Yost owned 160 acres located at township 26 north range 5 east in section 36. This farm is in Yates Township about five miles south of Weston.

Theater Experience of Paul Yost

The January 17, 1934, Pantagraph published a story about a new play in Bloomington that would be directed by Paul Yost of Pontiac.

Community Play to Be Coached by Paul Yost

Paul Yost of Pontiac, who has had extensive experience in dramatic work in the east, will be the director for "Lombardi Ltd." the next production for the Community Players, scheduled for Feb. 8 and 9 at the Majestic theater.

Mr. Yost, a graduate of the University of Chicago and the West Virginia university law school, later attended the Goodman School of the Theater in Chicago, where he was a member of the Goodman Theater Repertory company. He took a director's course at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York city, after which he directed some plays at the New York City college.

He was connected with the Theater Guild in New York for three seasons, touring with three plays—"Volpone," "R. U. R." and O'Neill's "Marco

Millions” and was the assistant stage manager for the Guild’s musical review, “Garrick Gaieties.”

In 1930 Mr. Yost spent several months in Europe, studying stage productions in Paris, Munich, Berlin, and London. He has had considerable experience in Little Theater directing.



The January 28, 1934, edition of the Pantagraph published an ad to sell tickets to the upcoming Paul Yost play in Bloomington. Note the \$1 ticket price in 1934 would be equivalent to \$22.50 in today's dollars.



Paul Yost Gives Presentation to Normal Community High School Students

The March 15, 1934, edition of the Pantagraph published an article about a presentation that Paul Yost gave to the students.

Speaker at Assembly Gives Correct Pronunciations

Paul Yost of Pontiac, dramatics coach, addressed a Normal Community high school assembly Wednesday on "The History of the English Language." He gave correct pronunciations for a long list of words,

commonly mispronounced. Edward C. Biasi, president of the high school board of education, arranged the program.

Paul Yost Gives Lecture to Bloomington Woman's Club on Proper Pronunciation

The April 18, 1934, edition of the Pantagraph published an article about this lecture given by Paul Yost of Pontiac.

President's Diction Model, Yost Tells Woman's Club

President Roosevelt's diction was cited as a model by Paul Yost of Pontiac, actor and play director, in an address Tuesday before the Bloomington Woman's club at the Y. M. C. A. His subject was "Words, How to Use and Pronounce Them."

Mr. Yost's talk followed an illustrated lecture on "Beauty Spots of Illinois," presented by Mrs. Blanche F. Moore, 509 South Fell avenue, Normal. She was presented by Mrs. W. C. Gueffroy, chairman of the club's conservation and gardens department, while Mr. Yost was introduced by Mrs. H. D. Bunnell, chairman of the education department. Mrs. Thomas J. Lancaster presided.

Measure of Intelligence

Through the influence of good diction heard on the radio, the stage and in motion pictures, the time will come when all will use standard pronunciation without seeming affected, Mr. Yost commented. His list of outstanding speakers, headed by the President, also included Frances Perkins, Marconi, Ramsay MacDonald, and King George, all of whom have been heard in radio broadcasts; George Arliss, Leslie Howard, Alfred Lunt, Lynn Fontanne and Barrymores of the stage and screen.

Mr. Yost spoke of the importance of speech as a measure of a man's intelligence, and said that an actor soon learns that the unforgivable sin on the stage is not to be understood. English is not generally considered a beautiful language, but that is not true if it is carefully spoken, the speaker said, defining as standard English that which cultivated persons use, and least likely to attract attention to itself as peculiar to a locality. He briefly reviewed the development of the English language, paying special tribute to Samuel Johnson as the first to stimulate interest in the spoken language.

Midwesterners, descended principally from English, Irish, Germans and Scandinavians, have less dialect in their speech than Americans of other sections, and the pronunciation used here may eventually become the basis for an American standard, Mr. Yost predicted.

Reads Word List

Middle west diction is not without conspicuous defects, although it is free from such sectional peculiarities as the Yankee “idear” for idea, the New York pronunciation of girl and oil as “goil” and “erl,” the Tennessee mountian “gwine” for going, or the western “bar” for bear. The principal faults in midwesterners’ speech are the burred “r,” the flat “a”, short “o”, failure to sound the final “g” in the syllable “ing,” and careless pronunciation of “u.”

The speaker read a list of words frequently mispronounced, and in conclusion, warned his listeners against slovenly speech, pedantic or over-precise diction and the use of slang, which he said merely betrays the lack of an adequate vocabulary.

CHAPTER 10

1935 to 1939

The January 16, 1935, issue of the Pantagraph published a story about how many plays were performed in the Bloomington-Normal area during 1934. In the era before television, this article demonstrates that plays were a popular form of entertainment.

Amateur Theatrical Productions Given in Large Numbers During the Last Year

Community Players Increase Programs

Amateur theatrical productions were offered in great numbers in Bloomington-Normal in 1934.

The Community Players, largest of the amateur play producing groups, gave "Lombardi Ltd.," a comedy about a famous designer of gowns, on Feb. 8 and 9 under the direction of Paul Yost of Pontiac. "Another Language" was given April 19 and 20 under the direction of Dr. H. W. Hodgins. The other two production of the year, "Three Wise Fools," given in October, and "Michael and Mary," in December, were directed by Roger A. Shaffer. The last season was so successful that the Community Players, headed by Clyde Noble, decided to present five plays this season.

The Playcrafters had a busy year under the presidency of Edwin Knapp. Their two chief productions were "Arms and the Man" and "Cricket on the Hearth." The winning entries in a playwriting contest and many other one act dramas were given in the course of the year at this group's bi-weekly meetings in the Unitarian church basement.

The American Passion play, with Delmar D. Darrah as director, was given in its 11th season at the Consistory, with 300 persons participating and the audiences including visitors from many miles around. In December, the Consistory Players gave a series of free presentations of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," before large audiences.

The principal professional dramatic production of the year was the appearance of Mme. Borgny Hammer and her company in Ibsen's "Ghosts," given at Presser hall under the auspices of Theta Alpha Phi of Illinois Wesleyan university. Numerous other dramatic offerings of the year centered around the universities, public schools and churches.

Zoath Yost Still Practicing Law

In 1935, Zoath Yost was 72 years of age. The April 23, 1935, Pantagraph published an article about a new case assigned to Zoath Yost.

Z. F. Yost of Pontiac, was appointed special master in chancery under \$500 bond for the foreclosure of Edward Kammermann, acting sheriff of Livingston county, successor in trust and others against S. P. Bradley and others.

Paul and Catharine Yost in a Pontiac Play

The October 7, 1935, Pantagraph published an article about both Paul and Catharine Yost being innovated in a new play in Pontiac.

Pontiac Players' Club Announces Performance

PONTIAC.—Pontiac Players' club, Paul Yost, president, will give a production of "Mrs. Bumpstead-Leigh" October 16 in the recreation building of the Methodist Episcopal church. This will be the first of a series of productions to be given by the club.

Catharine Yost will play the title role, with Dr. G. H. Fitz, Aline Heckman, Earl Carpenter, Ann Opperman, Harry Dawson, Pearl Middleton, Victor Opperman, Ilo Skean, Esther Legg, Jack McConahan and Wilbur North completing the cast. Paul Yost will direct.

The WPA

Wikipedia has a good explanation of this Depression-era government program.

Works Progress Administration

The Works Progress Administration (WPA; renamed in 1939 as the Work Projects Administration) was an American New Deal agency that employed millions of job seekers (mostly men who were not formally educated) to carry out public works projects, including the construction of public buildings and roads. It was set up on May 6, 1935, by presidential order, as a key part of the Second New Deal.

The WPA's first appropriation in 1935 was \$4.9 billion (about \$15 per person in the U.S., around 6.7 percent of the 1935 GDP). Headed by Harry Hopkins, the WPA supplied paid jobs to the unemployed during the Great Depression in the United States, while building up the public

infrastructure of the US, such as parks, schools, and roads. Most of the jobs were in construction, building more than 620,000 miles (1,000,000 km) of streets and over 10,000 bridges, in addition to many airports and much housing.

At its peak in 1938, it supplied paid jobs for three million unemployed men and women, as well as youth in a separate division, the National Youth Administration. Between 1935 and 1943, the WPA employed 8.5 million people (about half the population of New York). Hourly wages were typically kept well below industry standards. Full employment, which was reached in 1942 and appeared as a long-term national goal around 1944, was not the goal of the WPA; rather, it tried to supply one paid job for all families in which the breadwinner suffered long-term unemployment.

In one of its most famous projects, Federal Project Number One, the WPA employed musicians, artists, writers, actors and directors in arts, drama, media, and literacy projects. The five projects dedicated to these were the Federal Writers' Project (FWP), the Historical Records Survey (HRS), the Federal Theatre Project (FTP), the Federal Music Project (FMP), and the Federal Art Project (FAP).

In the Historical Records Survey, for instance, many former slaves in the South were interviewed; these documents are of immense importance to American history. Theater and music groups toured throughout the United States and gave more than 225,000 performances. Archaeological investigations under the WPA were influential in the rediscovery of pre-Columbian Native American cultures, and the development of professional archaeology in the US.

The WPA was a federal program that ran its own projects in cooperation with state and local governments, which supplied 10-30% of the costs. Usually, the local sponsor provided land and often trucks and supplies, with the WPA responsible for wages (and for the salaries of supervisors, who were not on relief). WPA sometimes took over state and local relief programs that had originated in the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) or Federal Emergency Relief Administration programs (FERA).

It was liquidated on June 30, 1943, because of low unemployment during World War II. Robert D. Leininger asserted: "millions of people needed subsistence incomes. Work relief was preferred over public assistance (the dole) because it maintained self-respect, reinforced the work ethic, and kept skills sharp.

Paul Yost Received WPA Grant in 1936

The March 4, 1936, edition of the Pantagraph published a story about Paul Yost receiving a WPA grant.

RECREATIONAL WORK TO OPEN

Paul Yost, Livingston County Director, Reports on Preparations

PONTIAC.—Livingston county's \$24,000 recreation project, under WPA auspices, will get under way next week, Paul Yost, director, told the Pontiac Woman's club directors Tuesday afternoon.

First projects to start will be classes in dramatics for grade school pupils. The program will be expanded in Pontiac and in the county as a whole as equipment for various activities is obtained. The armory has been obtained as the recreation center for Pontiac, he announced. Ping pong tables and other indoor sports material has been requisitioned.

An advisory committee to aid Mr. Yost in formulating plans has been named and is expected to meet soon. Its members are Maj. C. A. Burns, Howard Baldwin, J. C. Greenebaum, Dr. G. H. Fitz, Mayor Fred Hierth, G. A. Haskin, C. A. McGinnis, Lucius Legner, Wilburne J. Miller. D. O. Leatherman, the Rev. Fr. T. E. Shea, J. A. Sutherland, E. A. Simmons, the Rev. A. H. Smith, Reid Tombaugh, John Scouller, L. M. Shugart, A. F. Speltz, H. E. Vogelsinger and Ralph Wedge.

The 1936 WPA grant of \$24,000 would be equivalent to \$521,000 in today's dollars.

Dwight Residents Sign Up for Paul Yost WPA Project

The March 28, 1936, Pantagraph published a story about the impact of this WPA grant on the village of Dwight.

Sixty-five persons have registered to receive instruction in vocal and instrumental music, dramatics, and athletics in the WPA recreational project. The classes are under the direction of Paul Yost and Mr. and Mrs. David Smith and are held every Monday and Wednesday evening in the Legion Hall.

Catharine Yost a Judge in Grade School Art Project

The April 4, 1936, edition of the Pantagraph published a story about this art project in Pontiac.

Pontiac Pupils Win Awards for Posters

PONTIAC.—Mary Lou Sweitzer, Arlene Frobish and Mary Robbins, all pupils of Mrs. Esther Johnson in the Central School, won first, second, and third prizes in a poster contest sponsored by the art department of the Pontiac Woman's club. The judges were Miss Ida Woodrow, Mrs. C. A. Alcorn and Miss Catharine Yost.

The winning posters will be exhibited at a county meeting of women's clubs in Fairbury April 15, and entered in competition in the 17th district meeting later in April. The contests are sponsored by the state art department of the Illinois Federation of Women's clubs.

Paul Yost Uses WPA Grant to Launch Summer Recreation Program

The June 5, 1936, edition of the Pantagraph published an article about this new program.

Livingston to Have Summer Recreation

PONTIAC.—A summer outdoor recreation program, under WPA auspices, will be launched Monday throughout Livingston county, Paul Yost, in charge of the recreation project, stated Wednesday night.

In Pontiac, classes in handicraft, art, and the like will be conducted; there will be a bantam softball league; and there will be periods of supervised recreation. The Play park, Chautauqua park and Fell park will all be used.

Similar projects will be launched at all county recreation centers. Fourteen directors are to confer with Mr. Yost at WPA headquarters here Friday on the new program.

WPA Money Used for Horseshoe Tournaments

The July 19, 1936, edition of the Pantagraph published a story about how some of the WPA grant money was used.

PONTIAC.—"Froggy" Drew of Saunemin is the horseshoe champion of Livingston county's WPA recreational program. He defeated his Fairbury rival, Patrick, 50-39. Summers of Strawn won the second flight class by besting N. Gosteli, also of Strawn, 21-16. Gostell regained face in the paddle tennis tournament when he swept the field in six straight matches. The ping pong crown went to Dale Dolton of Pontiac.

In connection with the tournaments, held at the city play park, the group leaders, Robert Tipton Jr. of Fairbury; Lewis Walker, Strawn; Claude Bailey, Chatsworth; Russell Garrett, Saunemin; Eugene Snyder, Cornell; Lester Stalter, Flanagan, and Charles Buckley, Pontiac, held an all day business meeting with J. Paul Yost of Pontiac, county recreational supervisor, to plan county activities and make schedules.

Zoath Yost Determines Churchill Gravel Company Should be Null and Void

The August 4, 1936, Pantagraph published a story about a lawsuit involving the Churchill Gravel Company and Zoath Yost. Mr. Yost investigated and determined some of the contracts that the Churchill Gravel Company and various townships should be declared null and void because required competitive bidding practices were not observed.

The Churchill Gravel Company Story

This company was very important to the history of Livingston County in the 1930s because many of the dirt roads in the country were graveled using material mined at this quarry north of Fairbury.

The story below was written by the author and was published in the December 2021 Fairbury Blade newspaper.

History of the Churchill Gravel Company

For many decades, the abandoned gravel pit on First Street and just south of the Vermilion River bridge has been known as Chesebro's pond. The story of this abandoned gravel pit began with Francis Churchill (1860-1920). Francis married Lillie E. McDowell and was one of the most prominent businessmen in Fairbury. In addition to owning and operating a large grain elevator on West Locust Street, he also ran a gravel pit five miles north of Fairbury on First Street. Francis and Lillie Churchill had three boys and two girls.

The gravel mining operation was known as Churchill's Gravel Company. The first published account of the beginning of this operation was in the 1910 Joliet Evening Herald newspaper. In 1917, World War I began in Europe. Fred Weaver Churchill, the oldest son of Francis and Lillie Churchill, was in the U.S. military during this war. Unfortunately, Fred was badly gassed with mustard gas in France. Although Fred survived the initial gas attack, he never fully recovered and died at the age of 27 in 1924.

Elmer Leslie Chesebro was born in Fairbury in 1883. His family then moved to the Saunemin area. Elmer eventually formed a blacksmith business with his brother in Saunemin. When the automobile came onto the scene in the 1910s, it spelled the end of the need for blacksmiths. Elmer divorced his first wife and found work at the Churchill Gravel Company in Fairbury. Elmer eventually became the superintendent of the quarry.

Ada Scott was born in Albion, Indiana, in 1895. In 1919, at the age of 24, Ada married Glenn D. Butzer. He was 31 years old when he married Ada in Marion County, Indiana. After they were married, they relocated to Pontiac, Illinois.

In 1920, Francis Churchill died in Fairbury at the age of 59. After Francis died in 1920, son James Delos Churchill continued to operate the gravel quarry north of Fairbury. In 1928, James was involved with an incident that today we would call "road rage." In that era of gravel roads and narrow roads, the convention was for automobiles to give the right-a-way to horse-drawn transport wagons. One day, James was hauling a heavy load of gravel from the quarry using a horse-drawn wagon. He encountered a car with one male and three female passengers. All the occupants in the vehicle were African Americans. The car refused to give his heavy wagon the right-a-way. Words were exchanged, and the car went around the wagon and went to Fairbury. The male driver and one of the female passengers then returned to the site, and the male driver shot James Delos Churchill dead. The male driver and female passenger were arrested, convicted, and served time in prison for the murder.

After the death of James Churchill in 1928, the Churchill Gravel Company continued to operate with Elmer Chesebro as the mine superintendent.

In the early 1930s, Glenn Butzer was elected to the office of Livingston County Surveyor. A few years later, he was elected to be the Livingston County Highway Superintendent. One of Butzer's responsibilities as Highway Superintendant was to contract firms to gravel Livingston County roads. Butzer issued many of these contracts to the Churchill

Gravel Company in Fairbury during the 1930s. Glenn Butzer also purchased farmland just west of the Churchill quarry.

Unfortunately, Glenn Butzer died in 1935 when he was only 47 years old. By 1938, Elmer and Ada were partners in the Churchill Gravel Company. In 1941, Ada Butzer married Elmer Chesebro. Ada was 46, and Elmer was 58 years of age when they married.

According to Avoca Township plat books, the ownership of the land the quarry was located on changed from Lillie Churchill to Ada Chesebro sometime between 1935 and 1949. It is likely that when Lillie Churchill died in 1938, the quarry land was sold to Ada Chesebro.

The typical lifespan for a gravel quarry the size of the Churchill quarry was about 30 years. If this quarry started in 1910, it was likely depleted by 1940. This appears to be the case with the Churchill gravel pit because they built a new limestone crushing facility by the village of Ocoya in late 1940. The Pantagraph reported the new Churchill limestone crushing plant was powered by three big diesel engines, 210 horsepower each. According to Elmer Chesebro, plant superintendent, there was a 22 foot thick seam of limestone covered by only three to seven feet of topsoil. John Keller also started up a limestone crushing plant in late 1940. The third limestone crushing plant was operated by Pontiac Stone company and was north of Pontiac.

Two current Fairbury residents recounted that when they were children in the early 1940s, there was no equipment present or operating at the Churchill gravel pit south of the First Street bridge across the Vermilion River. These observations are further evidence that gravel mining operations had ceased at the gravel pit by the early 1940s.

The last published mention of the Churchill Gravel Company was in June of 1950. The Pantagraph reported that a young man attempted to rob bookkeeper Mrs. Margaret Blystone using a pocket knife. Mrs. Blystone emptied her purse on the counter, and there was less than one dollar in change. The youth demanded more cash. When Mrs. Blystone told him that was all the cash in the office, he left. The young man was arrested a short time later by the Pontiac Police Department.

Elmer Chesebro died in 1952 at the age of 69. In 1976, Ada Chesebro was 81 years old. According to property tax records, Ada Chesebro converted her farmland holdings into a trust managed by the Bank of Pontiac. This trust owns many different land holdings, including Knoll Lodge. Ada died in 1987 at the age of 92.

The story of the Churchill Gravel Company had an interesting cast of characters. The only significant remnant of this gravel company is the 20-acre pond surrounded by trees just south of the First Street bridge over the Vermilion River.

Catharine and Hellene Yost Involved with Planning President's Ball in Pontiac

The January 28, 1937, edition of the Pantagraph published an article about the upcoming President's Ball to be held in Pontiac. Catharine and Hellene Yost were mentioned as being on the planning committee for this event.

Ella Yost Still Active in the Pontiac Woman's Club in 1937

The May 5, 1937, edition of the Pantagraph published an article about the new officers and activities planned for the Pontiac Woman's Club. The social club had 150 members in attendance at their meeting. Ella Yost was selected to be on the Board of Directors for a one year term. Ella Yost was 71 years of age in 1937.

Ella Yost Wore Her 1890 Wedding Dress in 1937

Ella had her photograph taken in 1937 and she was wearing her wedding dress from her wedding in 1890. Her parent's home is shown in the background of the photo. This house was torn down when the new Pontiac bank was built in the 1960s.



Photo of Ella Hartshorn Yost taken in the front of the Yost House in 1937. Ella is wearing the dress from her wedding on November 18, 1890. In the background you see the residence of the Reverend and Mrs. T. C. Hartshorn. Ella married Zoath in the parlor of her parents home, which was located across the street from the Yost House.

County Celebrates Centennial in 1937

Livingston County was formed in 1837. To celebrate the centennial, a special Pontiac Daily Leader edition recounted the 100 year history of the county. The Livingston County Historical Society was involved in documenting the county history.

Unfortunately, after the excitement of celebrating the centennial, members lost interest and the Historical Society went dormant. It was created in 1924, so it was in existence for just thirteen years.

Hellene Yost Receives Poetry Award in 1938

The April 20, 1938, Pantagraph published an article about the 17th District Federation of Women's Clubs in Paxton. Three hundred women from five counties were in attendance at this meeting. Hellene Yost received a poetry award at this meeting.

Catharine and Hellen Yost Involved in Another Pontiac President's Ball in 1939

The January 26, 1939, Pantagraph published an article about the 1939 President's Ball. Both Catharine and Hellene Yost were mentioned as contributors to planning the event.

Paul Yost Gives Talk about Speech

The March 30, 1939, Pantagraph published a story about this event.

Sorority Hears Talk on Speech

PONTIAC.—Paul Yost spoke on "Speech" to members of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority meeting in the Y. M. C. A. Monday night. An open discussion followed the talk.

Miss Alice Fox, who introduced the speaker and Miss Frances Peterson were program chairman for the meeting. A business meeting was presided over by Miss Ruth Louderback, vice president.

CHAPTER 11

1940 to 1944

Catharine Yost Exhibits a Painting

The January 5, 1940, Pantagraph published a story about an art exhibit at Pontiac.

Club Has Art Exhibit

PONTIAC.—A large crowd attended the paintings and exhibits of handicraft at the Pontiac Woman's club art exhibit Tuesday afternoon in the club rooms located in the Y. M. C. A. building.

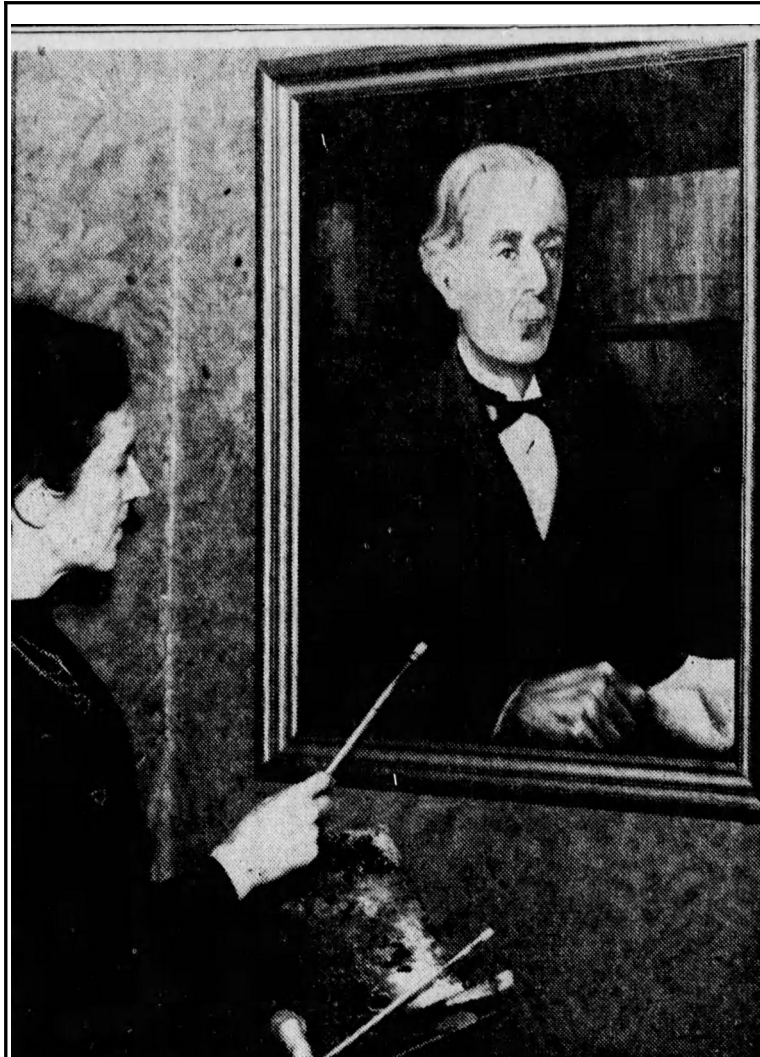
The exhibit by local artists was sponsored by the fine arts department of the Women's club, of which Mrs. Henry Huseman is chairman. Guests were greeted by Mrs. C. M. Dargan, club president.

Local artists who exhibited included Miss Catharine Yost, Mrs. Thelma Patterson Behring, Miss Mary Crouch, Dr. Thomas Lockie, Miss Blanche Crabtree, Mrs. Minneola Bonell, Reginald Meeker, Miss Ida Woodrow, Moore Foster, Paul Monser, Mrs. Jessie Witt Pyper, Mrs. C. E. Myers and Rasmus Rasmussen.

Showing handicraft exhibits were Tom Googerty, Dr. C. A. Alcorn, Miss Betsy Jane Alcorn, Lloyd Rasmussen and Mrs. Diller Myers. Musical interludes during the afternoon were furnished by Miss Irene Vilven and during the evening by Mrs. James Scouller.

Catharine Yost a Founding Member of the Amity Artist and Painters Club

The April 18, 1940, Pantagraph published a photo of Catharine Yost and one of her paintings.



Pontiac. Miss Catherine Yost, member of the newly organized Amity Artists and Painters Club, looks over one of her portraits. Members of the club, which was started this spring, come from all over Livingston County, and with the advent of spring weather, will start their outdoors work, usually meeting on Sunday afternoons. Purpose of the club is to promote art in the county.

Zoath and Ella Yost Celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary

The November 18, 1940, Pantagraph published an announcement for their 50th wedding anniversary.

Yosts Will Mark 50th Anniversary

Plan Receptions for Friends

PONTIAC.—Mr. And Mrs. Z. F. Yost of Pontiac will celebrate their 50th anniversary of their marriage Monday at their home, 298 West Water Street.

Afternoon and evening receptions will be held for their friends. Their son, Paul Yost, will arrive Sunday from New York City. Mr. Yost is one of the oldest practicing lawyers in Livingston county.

In 1940, Zoath Yost was 77 and Ella was 74 years of age.

Amitytown Society of Painters Founded in 1940

The November 18, 1940, edition of the Pantagraph published a story about the founding of group of artists in the Pontiac area.

Painters Will Exhibit Work

PONTIAC.—Amitytown Society of Painters, an organization of 16 active members and 12 associate members living in Pontiac and elsewhere in Livingston county, will hold an exhibit of their paintings at the Woman's club room in the Y. M. C. A. Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 25 and 26, it was announced Saturday. Forty to 50 pictures are expected to be on display.

Name of the society was taken from a spot in Amity township along the Vermilion River where members did landscapes last summer.

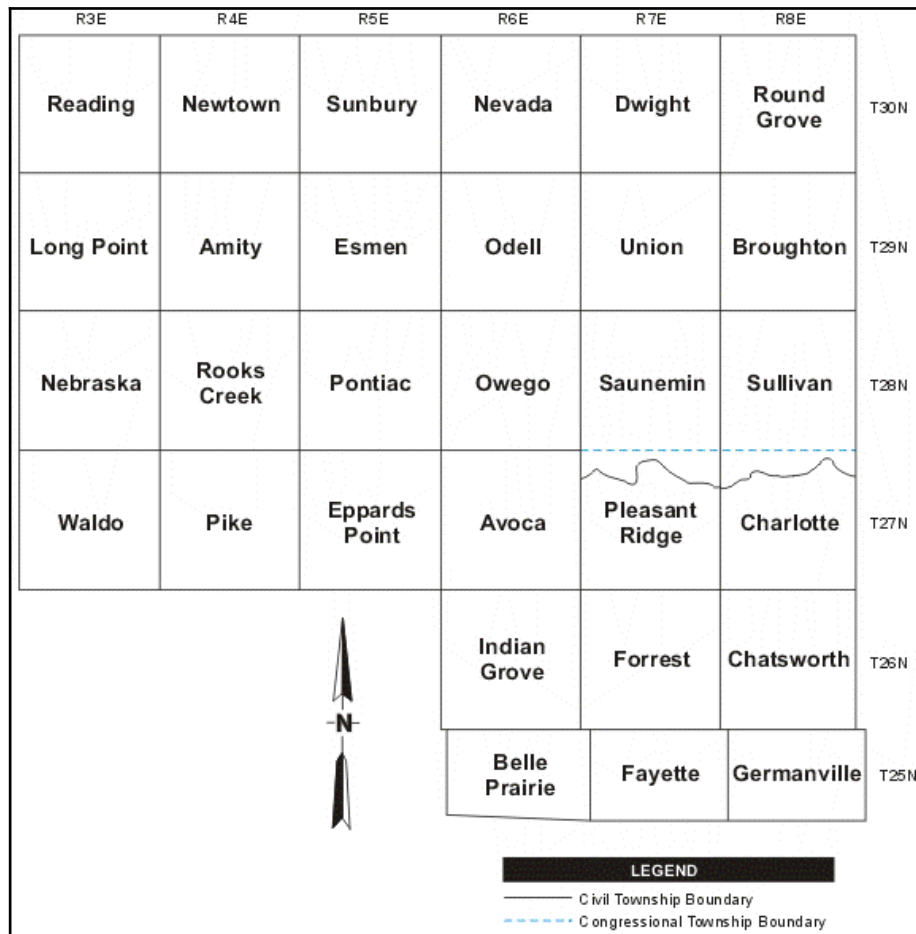
Active members include Dr. Thomas Lockie, president and director; V. Husted, vice president; Virginia Miller, secretary-treasurer; Catharine Yost, lecturer; Thelma Gehring, lecturer; Maurine McClelland, Mary Elizabeth Reynolds, Moore Foster, Louise Schneider, Minneola Bonnell, Thomas F. Googerty, Ann Myers, Betty Jane Duncan, Paul Ponser, Gertrude Bradley and Mary Husted.

Associate members include A. E. Tiffany, Clarence Louderback, Mrs. C. M. Dargan, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Smith, Clarence Miller, Dr. John H. Ryan, Richard Miller, Warden O. H. Lewis, Mrs. H. I. Shepherd, Paul Yost and the Pontiac high school.

The exhibit will be held in conjunction with National Art week.

Amity Township

The map below illustrates that Amity Township is northwest of Pontiac Township.



More Information About Amitytown Painters in 1987 Sesquicentennial Book

A book was prepared to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Livingston County in 1837. The Arts and Entertainment chapter was written by Robert B. McKenzie. An excerpt from this chapter is shown below.

From a brochure written by J. Paul Yost and printed in November 1971, one learns the basic history of this group's organization, intent, and efforts. Yost wrote, "The Amitytown Society of Painters was organized in the spring of 1940 by a group of local artists who had been painting together on Thursday and Sunday afternoon for several summers along the river at the Lyle Husted farm near Cornell, Illinois. The founders were two Pontiac men, Dr. Thomas Lockie, a local dentist and a member of the Brown County Indiana Group, and Thomas Googerty, considered on the country's outstanding craftsmen and designer of decorative wrought iron. For over 30 years, Mr. Googerty taught forge and wrought iron work at the Pontiac State Penitentiary. He bequeathed his own work to the Chicago Art Institute. The gates at the Catholic Cemetery and the South Side Cemetery in Pontiac are other examples.

"Mr. Googerty selected the name, "The Amitytown Society of Painters," because the group confined their activities around a mythical town, "Amity," which was an abandoned house on an old mill site on the Lyle Husted farm two miles south of Cornell.

"The object of the Society, according to Mr. Googerty, was the advancement of all those who are interested in landscape painting, including amateur and professionals alike; to bring more knowledge to people who are interested in and like painting; also, to encourage girls and boys in schools, and to encourage them to make an honest effort to produce landscapes, in whatever medium they wish to use. The Society would furnish lecturers to point out why the pictures were painted in the particular manner used, and to answer questions regarding methods used in painting."

Photos of Mr. and Mrs. Zoath Yost

The November 19, 1940, Pantagraph published photos of this couple celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.



Pontiac. Mr. and Mrs. Z. F. Yost, lifelong residents of Pontiac, celebrated their golden wedding Monday. Although neither is in the best of health, they received their friends Monday afternoon and evening at their West Water Street home.

Catharine Yost Runs for Pontiac City Treasurer in 1941 Primary Election

The February 25, 1941, edition of the Pantagraph published a list of candidates for the upcoming primary election. Catharine Yost was listed as the Democratic candidate for Pontiac City Treasurer.

Three Democrats Decide to Withdraw from Upcoming Election.

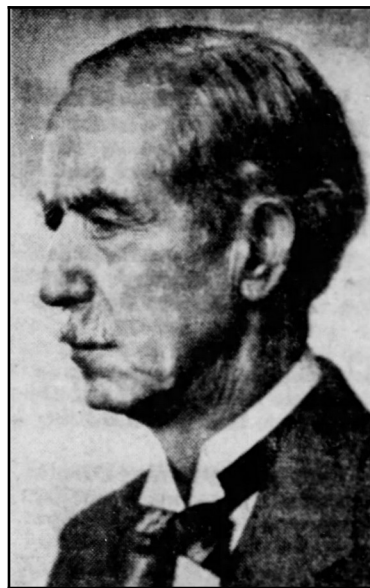
The March 17, 1941, Pantagraph published a story saying that three candidates withdrew before the election. Catharine Yost withdrew as the Democratic candidate for City Treasurer.

Zoath Yost Dies in 1941 at the Age of 77

The July 27, 1941, Pantagraph published the obituary for Zoath Yost of Pontiac.

Services Today in Pontiac for Zoath F. Yost

Oldest Member of Livingston County Bar Died Friday



Mr.

Yost

PONTIAC.—Zoath F. Yost, 77, oldest member of the Livingston county bar, died at his home in Pontiac, Friday, after two years of failing health.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p. m. (daylight) Sunday from the First Presbyterian church, with Dr. A. Brabson Morrow, the pastor,

conducting the services assisted by the Rev. John H. Boose of LaGrange, former pastor of the local church.

Mr. Yost was born Oct. 12, 1863, in Fairview, Marion county, West Virginia, the son of Dr. Fielding H. and Malinda A. Yost. His father served as a surgeon under General Lee in the Civil war.

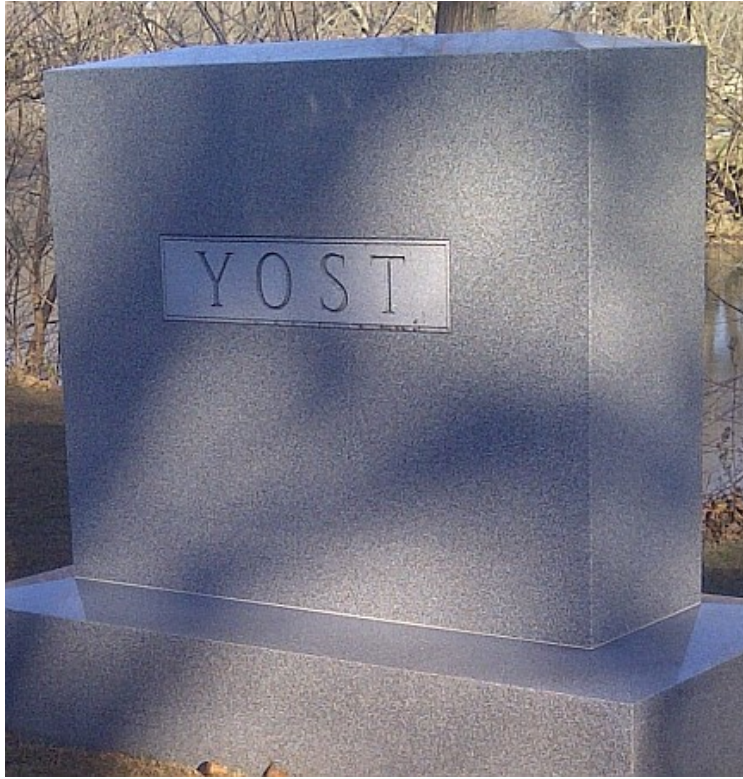
Z. F. Yost was educated at West Virginia university at Morgantown, graduating from the department of science in 1886. Classmates of his, who attended the university, and later became well known, nationally, were Bishop Edwin Hughes, now of Washington, D. C., and his brother Bishop Matthew Hughes, deceased. George Burnham Foster, former head of the department of comparative religion of the University of Chicago, was also a friend. Mr. Yost later received his law degree from his alma mater and began practicing in Livingston county in 1895.

Mr. Yost was the Democratic nominee for congress from the 17th district in 1902 and 1904, being opposed by John A. Sterling, who was elected. He was also city attorney of Pontiac at the time when the first ordinance for Pontiac's first pavement was passed and also when the first telephone franchise was granted.

Mr. Yost married Miss Ella Hartshorn in Pontiac in 1890. They have resided in Pontiac since then.

He is survived by his widow, two daughters and a son at home and two brothers, Dr. D. L. L. Yost and Dr. L. N. Yost, both of Fairmont, W. Virginia.

Zoath Yost was buried in Pontiac's South Side Cemetery



Livingston County Bar Association has Memorial for Zoath Yost

The October 14, 1941, issue of the Pantagraph announced a memorial service for Zoath Yost.

County Bar to Have Memorial

PONTIAC.—The late U. W. Louderback and Z. F. Yost, both of Pontiac, will be honored at a memorial program to be held Thursday in the circuit court room in Pontiac.

Hellene Yost Speaks to Presbyterian Class Band

The November 6, 1941, Pantagraph mentioned that Hellene Yost was a speaker.

CLASS BAND MEETS

PONTIAC.—Mrs. Gordon Campbell was hostess to the Presbyterian class band Monday evening at her home. Miss Hellene Yost led discussions.

Paul and Catharine Yost Members of Amitytown Painters

The November 10, 1941, Pantagraph published an article about this group.

Amity Painters to Display Works at Pontiac YMCA

PONTIAC.—In conjunction with National Art week, Nov. 17 to 24, Amitytown Society of Painters will exhibit their work in the Pontiac Woman's club YMCA headquarters Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 17 and 18.

It is expected that 35 pictures will be on display. Mrs. C. M. Dargan and Mrs. H. I. Shepherd will preside at the coffee table Monday evening from 7 to 10. This exhibit is open to the public without admission for the two days.

One feature of the Amitytown Painter's yearly program is the evening classes in drawing conducted by Paul Monsor, director of education at Illinois prison, during the winter.

Members of the painters' group are divided into active and associate members. Active members are: Dr. Thomas Lockie, president and director; Mrs. V. Husted, vice president; Virginia Miller, secretary-treasurer; Catharine Yost and Thelma Gehring, lecturers; Moore Foster, Louise Schneider, Thomas Googerty, Ann Myers, Betty Jane Duncan, Ethel Gallup, Paul Monsor, Woodward Bach, Grace Tuesburg, all of Pontiac and Maurice McClelland and Mary Elizabeth Reynolds of Dwight.

Associate members are: Dr. and Mrs. C. M. Dargan, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Smith, Clarence Miller, Howard Miller, Dr. John Ryan, Dr. A. B. Morrow, Father Farrell, Mrs. H. I. Shepherd, Paul Yost, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Sanford, H. S. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Clark.

Catharine Yost Paints Portrait of her Sister Hellene Yost

The November 18, 1941, Pantagraph published an article about the Amitytown exhibit.

ART EXHIBIT

Amity Painters Display 43 Original Works at Show



Pontiac. Miss Catherine Yost completes hanging her original painting, "Helene" at the exhibit.

Sixteen Artists Display Pictures at Pontiac YMCA

PONTIAC.—A large crowd attended the opening day's showing of the annual Amity Painter's art exhibit, Monday, in the YMCA club rooms.

A total of 43 paintings, done by the 16 members of the club, lined the walls of the room. Works ranged from simple sketches by students in the class held each week by Paul Monser, to beautiful finished works, by those more advanced in the field.

The exhibit is scheduled for two days, closing Tuesday night. Mrs. C. M. Dargan and Mrs. H. I. Shepherd presided at the coffee table from 7 to 10 p. m. Monday.

Members of the club whose works were exhibited included: Dr. Thomas Lockie, Mrs. V. Husted, Virginia Miller, Catherine Yost, Thelma Gehring, Moore Foster, Louise Schneider, Thomas Googerty, Ann Myers, Betty Jane Duncan, Ethel Gallup, Paul Monser, Woodward Bach, Grace Tuesburg, Maurine McClelland and Mary Elizabeth Reynolds.

Pantagraph Negative of Catharine Yost Hanging Painting of Her Sister Hellene

The Pantagraph recently released the negative of the photo used in the newspaper article. A copy is shown below.



School Children Attend Amitytown Exhibit

The November 21, 1941, Pantagraph published a short article about children visiting the art exhibit.

SCHOOLS VISIT EXHIBIT

PONTIAC.—Teacher and pupils of seventh and eighth grades of Central and Lincoln grade schools and the St. Mary's Catholic grade school visited the second annual exhibit of Amitytown Society of Painters Tuesday at the Pontiac YMCA. Thomas Googerty and Dr. Thomas Lockie explained the paintings to the groups and Catharine Yost spoke on art.

Start of World War II

World War II started on December 7, 1941, when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. When this war started, Hellene was 50, Catharine was 48, and Paul was 44. None of the Yost children served in the military during World War II. Some of the children helped with various charities that supported the war effort.

Catharine Yost Art Judge for Grade School Students

The February 28, 1942, Pantagraph published a story about a grade school art contest.

PAINTINGS FROM PONTIAC IN CONTEST

PONTIAC.—Pictures painted by Nita Mae Smith, second grade, Central school; Alexander Lewandowski, fifth grade Ladd school, and Betty Schlosser, seventh grade, Lincoln school were sent Saturday for participation in the seventh annual young America paints exhibition at the American museum of Natural History in New York city beginning April 2.

The pictures submitted were judged by Catharine Yost, Dr. Thomas Lockie and Thomas Googerty, members of the Amity Township Painter's association.

Catharine Yost Was Election Clerk

The March 12, 1942, issue of the Pantagraph reported a change in election clerks. Fred Elliott, chairman of elections said that Miss Catharine Yost of Pontiac would be replacing Mrs. Lavina Myers.

Paul and Catharine Yost Exhibited their Paintings

The December 2, 1941, Pantagraph published an article about another exhibition by the Amitytown painters.

Painting Exhibit at Pontiac

PONTIAC—Amitytown Society of Painters of Pontiac will hold its third annual exhibit of paintings in the studio above the G. C. Murphy store, Dec. 2, 3, 4. The public exhibit will open Wednesday night and be open Thursday and Friday during the afternoon and evening.

Approximately 35 paintings will be exhibited by the artists named: Dr. Thomas Locke, Thomas Googerty, Mrs. Thelma Gehring, Miss Catharine Yost, Miss Ethel Gallup, Miss Betty Duncan, Mrs. Louise Schneider, Lawrence Clark, Paul Yost, Stephen Adsit, Moore Foster, Mrs. V. Husted,

Cornell; Mrs. Maurine McClelland and Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Reynolds, both of Dwight.

Hostess for opening night will be Mrs. Clarence Miller, Mrs. W. P. Sandford and Mrs. H. H. Smith.

Hellene Yost Gives Book Review at Pontiac 20th Century Club

The January 12, 1943, Pantagraph reported that Hellene Yost gave a book review on Van Loon's book titled *Lives*.

Hellene Yost Does Another Book Review and Volunteers to Make War Dressings

The April 9, 1943, Pantagraph published two articles involving Hellene Yost. The first article reported that Hellene Yost volunteered her time to make surgical dressing packs for American soldiers in World War II. The other article reported that Hellen Yost gave a book review to the Pontiac Beta Sigma Phi sorority club. The book review was on Lloyd C. Douglas' novel *The Robe*.

A few days later, Hellene gave the same book review to the Women's Society of Christian Service of the First Methodist church in Pontiac.

Barn Struck by Lightning on Yost Farm South of Weston

The August 4, 1943, Pantagraph published a story about several farms that were damaged by a summer storm that passed through the area.

The barn at the Yost farm eight miles southwest of Fairbury was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. This location coincides with the previous mention of the Yost Farm south of Weston, Illinois.

Last Mention of Yost Family Member in 1943

The November 10, 1943, edition of the Pantagraph published a story about a recent meeting of the Pontiac 20th Century Club. At that meeting, Hellene Yost was elected to be first vice president of the club.

Hellene Yost Does Another Book Review

The April 3, 1944, Pantagraph published an article reporting that Hellene Yost gave a book review to the Evangelical Church group in Pontiac. Hellene reported on a book written by Sholem Asch titled *The Apostle*.

Pantagraph Does Major Article on Amitytown Painters in Pontiac

The April 9, 1944, Pantagraph published a major story about the Pontiac Amitytown Painting group. This story included several photographs of painters and their works.

Pontiac Amateur Artists Paint for Fun

Display Canvases at Woman's Club

PONTIAC.—Members of the Amitytown Society of Painters left their easels and oils, crayons, pencils, and water colors long enough Tuesday afternoon to allow the public a glimpse of some of their paintings and sketches, when a gallery of 41 pictures of their creation was exhibited by the fine arts department of the Pontiac Woman's club in the Masonic temple.

The display was the fourth annual showing of the society, which is composed of 15 artists who paint mostly in Amity township. Some 25 or 30 years ago, three Pontiac young men—Dr. Thomas Lockie, Thomas Googerty, and Moore Foster—banded together to follow their hobby of pencil sketching.

At that time, an artist friend, G. Y. Straus, who came regularly to Pontiac to paint, interested the trio in oils, water colors, and crayons as other fascinating media for imprisoning the beauty of the Vermilion river country. The group has attracted others from the community with artistic talent, with the result that about five years ago, the Amitytown Society of Painters with 15 active members, was born.

The afternoon program for the Woman's club meeting also included a recorded lecture by Dr. Dudley Crafts Watson entitled "National Gallery of Art." and was accompanied by the showing of color films of the world's greatest paintings.

The exhibit, which was open to the public following the Woman's club meeting, included the following pictures;

OIL PAINTINGS

Dr. Thomas Lockie:

Brown County, Indiana
Byroad
Still Life
Pontiac Stone Quarry Route 23

Miss Catharine Yost:

South Fork of the Potomac River, West Virginia
The Chute
Fairview, West Virginia
Dahlia Garden of a West Virginia Coal Miner
Portrait of Miss Ruth Gornto, Virginia Beach
Mill Street Bridge

Thomas Googerty:

Group of Buildings, Parrish River Place
River at Husteds
Country Road

Thelma Gehring:

Tulips
Country Road
Wharf

Louise Schneider:

River at Heisner's Island Bridge
Burr Oak River Country Place of John Parrish
Sumac on Cornell Road
Chalet Apartment and Garden, 422 West Henry Street

Stephen Adist

Composition and Landscape

Pastel Pictures

Thelma Gehring:

Grandma Snyder

Paul Yost:

Sawmill on Laurel Run, West Virginia

Ann Allen Myers:

Three still life pictures.

Water Color Paintings

Lawrence Clark:

Mill Street Bridge
Vermilion River
Boston Terrier

Paul Yost:

Swimmin' Hole
West Virginia
Top of the Hill

Thelma Gehring:

Passionflower

Pencil Sketches

Dr. Thomas Lockie:

Road to the East Side Club
Bend in the River
River's Edge
Sketch
Trees

The photographs that accompanied the article are shown below.



Pontiac. Catching interest of the group is Catherine Yost's painting. Left to right, Mrs. E. R. Bessman, president of the Woman's club; Catherine Yost, Mrs. Robert Thompson, fine arts chairman, Paul Yost and Louise Schneider.



OPEN DISCUSSION. Paul Yost discusses some of the fine points of portrait painting, using his sister, Catherine's, painting of "Miss Ruth Gorto, Virginia Beach," as an example.



SHOP TALK. A group of Amitytown artists discuss some of their work -- all oil paintings. Standing, Paul Yost. Seated, left to right, Catherine Yost, whose picture, "Mill Street Bridge," appears lower right; Louise Schneider, whose painting, "Chalet Apartment and Garden, 422 West Henry Street," hangs at lower left; Thelma Gehring, whose "Tulips" hangs above.



RIVER VIEW. Mrs. Robert Thompson admires an oil painting by Thomas Googerty, "River at Husted's," in Amity township, as she checks the number with her program.

Catharine Yost Performs in Musical Ensemble

The May 12, 1944, Pantagraph published an article about a meeting the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the First Methodist church held.

At this meeting, the "Tuesburg Ensemble" performed a musical number. Members of this ensemble included Mrs. L. W. Tuesburg, Mrs. Walter Rundquist, Miss Catharine Yost, Peter Somers and Harry Baldwin.

The article does not specify if Catharine Yost played a musical instrument or sang in this ensemble group.

CHAPTER 12

1945 to 1949

Mrs. Ella Yost Dies at the Age of 78 in Pontiac

The January 9, 1945, Pantagraph published an obituary for Ella Yost.

PONTIAC.—Mrs. Ella Yost, 78, died at her home at 12:30 a. m. Monday after an illness of six weeks. The body was taken to the Raleigh J. Harris Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 3 p. m. Wednesday from the family residence.

The Rev. A. B. Morrow will officiate and burial will be in Pontiac South Side cemetery.

Ella Louise Hartshorn was born Sept. 17, 1866, in Pontiac, a daughter of Dr. T. C. and Catharine Williams Hartshorn. She attended schools here and in Chicago, Rockford college and Western college, Oxford, Ohio. On Nov. 18, 1890, she married Zoath Freeman Yost of Fairview, W. Va. He died July 25, 1941.

Mrs. Yost was a great great granddaughter of Gen. William Williams, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and a member of the Constitutional congress.

Surviving are a son, John Paul, two daughters, Hellene Louise and Catharine Virginia, all at home. An only brother, Frederick Catlin Hartshorn, died Jan. 25, 1924. Mrs. Yost was a member of the Presbyterian church, the Pontiac Woman's club and a charter member of the Twentieth Century club.

Ages of Children

When their mother died, Paul was 48, Catharine was 52, and Hellene was 55 years of age.

Close Friend of Catharine and Paul Yost Dies in 1945

The January 22, 1945, Pantagraph published an obituary for Dr. John Lockie, Pontiac artist.

Dr. Lockie, Pontiac Dentist, Artist, Dies

PONTIAC.—Dr. Thomas Lockie, Pontiac dentist of 45 years and one of the three founders of the Amitytown Society of Painters, died at 4:15 a. m. Sunday at St. James hospital. He had been in failing health a year and seriously ill the last three months.

Funeral services will be held with the Rev. James C. Thomas officiating. Masonic services will be held at the funeral home at 7:30 p. m. Monday.

Dr. Lockie was born in Will county, son of George and Cynthia Batchelder Lockie. He was a graduate of the Chicago Dental college. He was married in Pontiac Dec. 31, 1923 to Miss Margaret Winters who survives. A brother, David Lockie, preceded him in death.

Well known for his versatility as an artist, Dr. Lockie's work included oils, water colors, etchings, block prints and pencil sketches.

He gave a one man exhibit in Pontiac in 1933 and had exhibited each year with the Amitytown artists. He had also designed and executed two crucifixes, one in ivory and one in gold, and made and presented to St. Mary's church a figure of the Virgin Mary and Jesus. On the monument at the southeast corner of the courthouse is a three panel bronze tablet depicting pioneer life of Dr. Lockie's design.

He was a member of the Masonic lodge, Pontiac East Side Country club of which he had been president many years, the Old Mill Saturday Night club, State Archaeological society, Amitytown Society of Painters and Brown County, Indiana Painters society.

Paul and Catharine Yost Named Election Officials by Pontiac City Council

The February 5, 1945, Pantagraph published a story about the election officials named by the City Council for the upcoming primary election. Paul Yost was named an election judge and Catharine Yost was named an election clerk.

Hellene Yost Does Two Book Reviews in 1945

In April, Hellene reviewed Peoples on Our Side, third in a series of books by Edgar Snow, for the Twentieth Century club. In May, she reviewed Caesar and Christ for the Kiwanis club. The book, by Will Durant, is the third part of a monumental history of civilization to be written by the author and contains a cross section of the history of Rome.

Catharine Yost On Fine Arts Committee of Woman's Club

In June of 1945, Catharine was named to be on the Fine Arts committee of the Pontiac Woman's Club.

Catharine and Paul Yost Plan Art Exhibit

The September 20, 1945, Pantagraph published a story about this upcoming art event.

TO EXHIBIT LOCKIE PAINTINGS

PONTIAC.—A memorial exhibit of paintings of the late Dr. Thomas Lockie, one of the charter members of the Amitytown Society of Painters, will be included in the annual exhibit of the painting society to be held Oct. 1 and 2 at the old mill.

Members present at a meeting Tuesday night held to discuss plans for the annual event included Mrs. Grace Tuesburg, Mrs. Eleanor Gotschall, Mrs. Louise Schneider, Miss Catharine Yost, Mrs. Thelma Gehring, Jack Carter, Stephen Adsit and Paul Yost.

More on Upcoming Amitytown Exhibit

The September 30, 1945, Pantagraph published another article about the upcoming exhibit in Pontiac.

Paintings of Local Scenes To Be on Exhibit

PONTIAC.—Fifteen of the 45 paintings to be exhibited by members of the Amitytown Society of Painters here will be the work of the late Dr. Thomas Lockie, who more than a quarter century ago recorded the scenes of the Vermilion river country on canvas and art paper.

The gallery will be open to the public Monday night, Tuesday and Tuesday night. The exhibit will be held in the Old Mill beside the Mill street dam.

In addition to the works of Dr. Lockie, paintings to be displayed will include those by Thomas Googerty, Stephen Adsit, Jack Carter, Mrs. Louise Schneider, Miss Catharine Yost, Mrs. Eleanor Gotschal and Mrs. Thelma Gehring.

Amitytown Exhibit in 1945

The October 2, 1945, Pantagraph published an article about this exhibition.

Amitytown Society Nails Up Its Best

PONTIAC.—Tossing aside paints and crayons, paint brushes and sketch books, Pontiac painters armed themselves with hammers, picture wire, step-ladders and nails — even a broom or two — and worked diligently several hours Sunday afternoon in the Old Mill to put up their 1945 exhibit of works by the members of the Amitytown Society of Painters.

To the accomplishment of a steady downpour of rain and the thundering of water rushing over the dam below the mill, the artists hung 45 canvasses, including 15 especially chosen paintings of the late Dr. Thomas Lockie, one of the founders of the society.

The exhibit opened formally Monday night and will open to the public also on Tuesday, and Tuesday night.

Paintings shown in the exhibit in the Old Mill include the following by the late Dr. Lockie, who, with Mr. Googerty, many of whose current works are on display, and Moore Foster, sketched the beauties of the Vermilion river country in Amity township more than a quarter of a century ago. These three later employed other media — crayons, water color, charcoal, oils — and still later formed the nucleus of what became the Amitytown Society of Painters, which is now holding its fifth exhibit.

Works Displayed

Dr. Lockie:

Tree Pattern
Vermilion River
Brown County, Indiana
Indiana Landscape
The House Across the Street
Flowers, Still Life
Long Ira's
Brown county Cabin
Farm Home

Cabin in the Woods, Brown County
Byroad
Landscape
Self-Portrait
Old Stone House, Dry Point
Grace Church, Dry Point
Bend in the River
Pencil Sketch
Trees, Pencil Sketch

Catharine Yost:

Suzanne
My Hat
Self Portrait
The Old South Church
A West Virginia Road
In the Time of Roses
West Virginia Hills
The Old Jarvis Place

Thomas Googerty:

Landscape, Sunshine
Brown County Landscape
Evening
Landscape
Country Road in June

Thelma Gehring:

Rubrum Lilies
Still Life
Pear Blossom
Portrait of Eleanor
Thunbergia Grandiflora

Stephen Adsit:

Young's Bridge
A Country Road
Bouquet

Jack Carter:

Church on the Square

The Mill

The Street

Eleanor Gotschall:

Hollywood Farm

Self Portrait

Ann Allen Myers:

Still Life, Pastel

Louise Schneider:

A Scene at Wedron, Illinois

Pantagraph Photographs that Accompanied October 2, 1945 Article



PONTIAC. A feature of the Amitytown Society of Painters exhibit is a gallery of 15 paintings by the late Dr. Thomas Lockie, society's founder. Hanging his works are Thelma Gehring, Paul Yost. The others are Louise Schneider and Roger Williams.



TWO OTHER MEMBERS of the society, made up of Pontiac painters, hang Lockie's "Cabin in the Woods" (below) and "Tree Pattern" (above). They are Stephen Adsit, left and Jack Carter.



THE ARTISTS rest on feed sacks in the Old Mill, where the exhibit is open through Tuesday, after the rigorous job of cleaning the place and hanging the paintings. Left to right, Mrs. Gehring, Mrs. Eleanor Gotschall, Mr. Adsit and Mr. Carter.

Amitytown Society of Painters Loses Another Founding Member

The October 31, 1945, Pantagraph, published the obituary for Thomas Googerty, one of the three founding members of the Amitytown group of artists.

Thomas Googerty Dies in Pontiac Hospital

PONTIAC.— Thomas F. Googerty, 80, recognized as one of the nation's greatest craftsmen in decorative wrought iron work, died at midnight Monday at St. James hospital.

Funeral services will be held at 9 a. m. Friday at the St. Mary's church, with the Rev. Fr. Thomas E. Shea officiating. The Rosary will be said at 8 p. m. Thursday at the Raleigh J. Harris funeral home.

Mr. Googerty is probably one of the few persons who have refused to fill out a questionnaire with data for preparation of a personal sketch to be printed in "Who's Who." In 1940 he was extended this honor, but declined the invitation.

Decorative wrought iron work interested him more than any of the other crafts and he made a careful study of the iron work of the past. He had exhibited his work in most of the large art museums of the country and had received prizes from the Art Institute of Chicago in 1914 and in 1921 for work shown there.

Googerty Wrought Iron Gates at Two Pontiac Cemeteries

He made the entrance gates at the Pontiac South Side Cemetery and St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery.



Googerty entrance gates at Pontiac's South Side Cemetery



A detail from the South Side Cemetery Gates



Googerty entrance gates at Pontiac's St. Mary's Cemetery

Hellene Yost Attends Woman's Club Meeting in November 1945

In this meeting, the club members watched two historical films.

Paul Yost Helps to Plan Play Upcoming in January 1946

The November 26, 1945, Pantagraph reported there was a meeting of the Livingston County Rural Youth association. Paul Yost was present at this meeting to help pick cast members for an upcoming play in 1946.

Catharine Yost Helps the Needy

In December of 1945, the Pontiac Woman's Club sponsored a Christmas benefit party to raise money to buy Christmas baskets to be distributed to needy people in Pontiac. Catharine Yost was one of the club members who helped in this drive.

Twentieth Century Club Meets at Yost House

Hellene Yost hosted this club's December meeting at her home, the Yost House.

Catharine and Hellene Yost in Pantagraph on Same Day in February 1946

Several Pontiac clubs had a meeting in Pontiac to form a barbershop singers group. Catharine Yost helped to provide the decorations for the tables used at that meeting.

Hellene Yost did another book review at a meeting of the Twentieth Century Club. She reviewed *The Big Three* by David Dallin. Mr. Dallin's book focused on the world situation existing between the United States, Great Britain, and Russia.

Fielding Harris Yost Dies in 1946

Fielding H. Yost, the famous Michigan college football coach died at the age of 75 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The coach was the first cousin once removed of Zoath F. Yost.

Catharine Yost Gives Lecture on Early Pontiac History in 1947

The April 27, 1947, *Pantagraph*, published a story about the talk that Catharine gave to the Pontiac Rotary Club.

Rotary Hears History of Pontiac Area

PONTIAC.—Miss Catharine Yost, speaker at Pontiac Rotary luncheon meeting here Wednesday reviewed the history of Livingston County and Pontiac.

The story of the county falls into three parts, she said: The period before the coming of the first white settlers in 1829; the period between 1829 and the building of the Alton railroad in 1854, and the period since its building.

Miss Yost traced the history from the time of the Kickapoos, who held the eastern half of the county and the Pottawatomies, who had the western half, until the time of the first white settlers. The present site of Pontiac was swampy, and consequently was not settled until 1833 when Henry Weed and the Young Brothers build cabins here.

The town was named Pontiac by Jesse Fell, a principal landowner, not because the Indian chieftain ever inhabited the region, but because Fell thought the name should be preserved, she said.

The town was incorporated in 1856. Miss Yost told of three disastrous fires which struck the business section in the early 1870s. The third of which destroyed the courthouse itself in 1874.

Miss Yost was introduced by Louis Wolff, program chairman.
Announcement was made by Harry Herron of the Monticello Rotary club
that the 148th district conference would be held in Monticello May 7 and 8.

Williams Mill in 1947

The Pantagraph published an article on September 16, 1947 on the Williams' Mill in Pontiac.

Williams' Mill at Pontiac Called Popular Old Landmark

Saturday Club, Amateur Artists Use the Building

By Stanley Lantz

PONTIAC. — There's an old landmark on the Vermilion river, right in the heart of Pontiac known as Williams' mill. It isn't really so ancient as many of its counterparts in the eastern part of the country, nor quite so picturesque. If anybody knows what "picturesque" really means.

Old time residents of the community, however, go sentimental when they see or talk about Williams' mill. It looks just about the same today as it has for longer than most anyone can remember, so it's considered a local landmark and it's been photographed and painted and written about for a good many years.

Roger Williams is the proprietor. Like his father before him, he grinds feed. He has time, though, to putter and talk to his cronies and tell visitors about the mill.

He says the business has been running on the same site for nearly a hundred years, but the present building is little more than half that old. They never had a regular mill wheel like you see in the pictures. They used to have a flat "sidewinder" wheel, but the grinding is all done now by electricity.

Mr. Williams and some of his friends have fixed up a back room for a clubhouse, where they hold a stag supper ever Saturday night. The idea stated about 20 years ago when a local lodge held a fish fry and had a lot of fish left over. Someone suggested a "private fish fry" at the mill, so about a dozen men, including Mr. Williams, enjoyed a late fish supper in the back room. They've met every Saturday night since. To eat, of course.

Another group which makes use of the mill is the Amitytown Society of Painters, a local organization of amateur artists. For six years the painters

have held a public exhibit of their work. Eleven artists exhibited 45 paintings last year.

With the mill continuing to attract art lovers and food lovers, not to mention the regular feed customers, it's likely to remain a well known spot for a good many more years.

Pantagraph Negative

The Pantagraph sent a reporter to Pontiac to take a photo of the Williams Mill. The negative for this photo was recently released and published online. A copy of the negative is shown below. The caption from the newspaper article has been added to the negative.



Williams' mill, located on the Vermilion river in Pontiac, has been the subject of post cards, amateur paintings, and photographs for nearly a century. The original building was erected in the 1850s, the one shown above during the 1890s.

Last of Three Founding Members of Amitytown Painters Dies in 1948

The three founding members of the Amitytown Painters Society of Pontiac were Dr. Lockie, Thomas Googerty, and Moore Foster.

The March 3, 1948, Pantagraph, published an obituary for Moore Foster.

Moore Foster

PONTIAC.—Moore Foster, 93, of 1016 North Mill street, Pontiac, died at 4:30 p. m. Tuesday at his home after an illness of several years.

The body was taken to Raleigh J. Harris Funeral home, where services will be held at 10:30 a. m. Friday. Burial will be in Pontiac Southside Cemetery.

Mr. Foster was born Sept. 13, 1854, near Fairbury, son of Robert and Mary Foster. He married Miss Elizabeth Millie at Pontiac. She preceded him in death in 1924.

Surviving are four children: Mrs. Hatie Olson, of Milwaukee, Wis., Mrs. Ella Buell of Pontiac, Mrs. Irene Collins of San Antonio, Tex., and Robert of Springfield; five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

He was an artist and decorator.

Hellene and Paul Yost Paintings on Display in Merchant's Windows in 1948

The Pontiac Woman's club sponsored an event where local artists work would be displayed in Pontiac store windows as part of celebrating American Art week.

Paintings by Hellene Yost and Paul Yost were part of this event.

Annual Amitytown Exhibit in 1948

The November 26, 1948, Pantagraph, published a story about the event.

Members Show 60 Paintings at Memory-Mill

PONTIAC.—The art of self expression was in full view Sunday afternoon as the Amitytown Painters Society of Pontiac opened their eighth annual public exhibition of paintings here at Williams Memory Mill.

By evening more than 250 persons had viewed the collections of the 13 exhibiting members of the society. Sixty paintings were displayed, making this the society's biggest show.

In commenting on this year's show, Miss Catharine V. Yost, president of the society, said, "Everything's splendid as it brings out individualism, which is one of the first aims of our organization."

"The founders of Amitytown Society, Miss Yost continued, "had one thing uppermost in their mind—doing something for the younger people to get them started in art."

"One thing that thrills me the most is that we have added several young exhibitors this year. And remember, we're not a closed corporation — we welcome anyone who desires to join us."

"Amitytown Society is not maintained for art instruction, but is merely a group of people with one main purpose—art."

Miss Yost added that "not all the members exhibit each year—of course we would like them to, but there is nothing which is compulsory about us."

"Should a member wish to show a painting in the exhibit there are two things we do ask of them: One, that the painting must have been completed during the year, and the other, that it must not be a copy."

The society has eighteen members this year. The thirteen who had paintings on display Sunday included, Miss Yost, Steve Adsit, Thelma Gehring, Maurine McClelland, Eleanor Gotchall, Lawrence A. Clark, Beatrice Von Kanel, Ruth Wrightam, Dr. Harold Schroeder, Esther Thornton, Mildred Fry, Clarence V. Durham and John C. McGregor. Miss Fry, Mr. Durham, and Mr. McGregor are the three new exhibitors.

Roger Williams, owner of the Pontiac Mill, ceases the mill activities for two days each year to allow the society to have its show.

CHAPTER 13

1950 to 1959

Catharine Yost Judges Art Contest for Children in 1950

She volunteered to be a judge for art work done by seventh and eight grade students in Pontiac.

Paul Yost Directs One-Act Play in 1951 in Pontiac

He directed a play conducted for the Pontiac Woman's Club.

Amitytown Group 25 Years Old in 1953

The group conducted its 13th annual exhibition of paintings in Pontiac. The group was founded in 1928 by Thomas Lockie, Thomas Googerty, and Moore Foster. Catharine Yost displayed one of her paintings of a West Virginia farm.

Paul Yost Helps with 1953 Church Play in Pontiac

Paul Yost and Mrs. C. M. Dargan were the costume and make-up advisors for this Christmas pageant.

Paul Yost Directs Children's Play in Pontiac in 1954

Paul Yost, assisted by Mrs. John Dargan, directed the one-act comedy Mrs. Harper's Bazaar.

In 1954, Paul Yost was 57 years of age.

Paul Yost Directs Another Play in 1954

The three act comedy, Goodbye, My Fancy, was directed by Paul Yost and performed in the Central School gymnasium.

The Pantagraph reported that Paul Yost, a Pontiac resident who has had experience in theater production in New York City before returning here to his home town. He formerly directed plays presented by the Pontiac Players, a dramatic group once active here.

Williams Mill Burns in April of 1955

The mill at the Mill Street Bridge was a popular tourist attraction and it was photographed and painted by many artists. The Amitytown Painters Society held their annual art exhibitions at the old Williams Mill.

The April 10, 1955, Pantagraph published a story about a major fire at the mill. A few years after this major fire, the mill was completely torn down.

Williams Mill, Pontiac Sight, Damaged by Fire

PONTIAC— The 62 year old mill feed mill owned by Roger Williams burned in the early morning hours Saturday.

The fire was discovered at 12:30 a.m. by a passing taxi driver. Pontiac firemen worked until 3 a.m. before bringing the blaze under control.

Fire Chief Louis Kridner said the fire, which started in the northeast corner of the building, “was definitely caused by spontaneous combustion.”

Corn Ruined

Metal on the exterior walls of the building was buckled by heat and the interior was badly gutted. Water ruined 400 bushels of seed corn stored in the building and damaged equipment and tools in the basement.

The corn, valued at \$4,600 was owned and insured by a seed corn company. There was no insurance on the building.

There was a sawmill on the site in 1857, when Thomas Williams, father of the present owner, bought the land. In the 1870s Thomas Williams built a feed mill and threw a dam across the Kickapoo to provide power for it. Steam power was added later.

The old mill burned November 17, 1891, Mr. Williams recalled Saturday. “It was the first freeze of winter and the water pipes froze up under the engine room. Someone took hot coals out of the furnace to warm the pipes and they caught the cobwebs on fire.

Burned for Year

“About 9,000 bushels of wheat stored upstairs fell down on the fire. It smoldered and burned for a year,” he said.

Thomas Williams built a new mill on the old foundations, keeping the original chimney in use.

The mill has served as a meeting place for a group of Pontiac men who gathered for supper and talk with Mr. Williams every Saturday night since the 1920s.

Two Errors in the Pantagraph Story about the Fire

There were two errors in the Pantagraph story about the fire. The river that was dammed up for the mill was the Vermilion River, not the Kickapoo River.

The article also said the first mill burned down because someone caught the cobwebs on fire. The reporter likely should have reported the corn cobs caught on fire.

Hellene, Catharine, and Paul Yost Combine to Create a Pontiac Play

The Pontiac Presbyterian church decided to have a play to celebrate their 100 years of existence. All three children of Zoath Yost volunteered to help create and conduct this play.

The November 16, 1955, Pantagraph published an article about this play.

Pontiac Presbyterian Drama to Portray 100 year History

PONTIAC.—The Centennial committee of the First Presbyterian church of Pontiac will present a historical play entitled “A Willing Gift,” written by Hellene L. Yost, at 8:15 p. m. Friday at the Central school gymnasium.

Produced and directed by J. Paul Yost, the play is based on records of the church and its societies including the board of trustees, Session, Ladies Aid Society and Missionary Society. It is in six scenes with a prologue and epilogue.

The three scenes in act one take place in a school house in Pontiac in November, 1855; the Kidder farm home near Graymont, in the spring of 1857, and the county fair on the old fair grounds, dining hall, in late summer, 1872.

In act two, the scenes take place at the Presbyterian Bazaar, tent in the street east of the present church, October, 1872; the Manse, late spring 1883, and the Sunday school room, 1900.

Six members of the cast are direct descendants of the characters they portray. Mrs. Phillip Rollins is played by Miss Inez Rollins, her

granddaughter; Mrs. John Schneider by Mrs. Harriet Fischler, granddaughter; Mrs. John Bruckner by Mrs. Hattie Baker, granddaughter; Mrs. T. C. Hartshorn, by Miss Catharine Yost, granddaughter; Mrs. N. J. Pillsbury by Mrs. Gladys Erickson, granddaughter; Mrs. C. E. Grove by Mrs. Madge Dargan, daughter. Mrs. Baker also plays her mother, Mrs. Joseph Thrasher.

Stage managers are Miss Martha Adams and Miss Margaret Richards. Bill Brue is assistant stage manager. In charge of costumes are Hellene Yost, Aletha Huston and Lillian Bane.

The cast is composed of approximately 65 persons.

Paul Yost a Judge in 1957 Essay Writing Contest

The Pontiac American Legion Auxiliary sponsored an essay contest for seventh and eighth graders. Students had to write a 500-word essay on “What My American Independence Means to Me.”

Paul Yost was one of the judges in this essay writing contest.

Amitytown Artists Conduct 17th Annual Exhibit in 1957

Catharine Yost was involved in this event. The Pantagraph article noted that the old mill adjacent to the Mill Street bridge was being torn that year.

Hellene Yost in the 1958 Pantagraph

There were no mentions about Catharine or Paul Yost in 1958. Hellene Yost was mentioned three times. Twice she showed a film to a social club and once she gave another book review.

CHAPTER 14

1960 to 1969

Hellene Yost President of Presbyterian's Women's Association in 1960.

A Pantagraph article mentioned that she was the president of this group in 1960.

Catharine Yost a Guest Speaker at Cullom Woman's Club in 1962

A Pantagraph article mentioned that she was a guest speaker and gave a talk about art. She also reviewed art that children had done for a recent art contest and offered the children ideas on how they could improve their drawings.

Mr. Fuller of Fairbury Borrows Costumes from Hellene Yost in 1962

Mr. Fuller started teaching art in 1962 in Fairbury. Since children's plays had not been done before at Fairbury schools, Mr. Fuller decided to start putting on plays with the school children. Because he had no costumes or props, he started borrowing items from anyone he could find in the area. Hellene Yost loaned him some of her items to help get the plays started in Fairbury.

Judge Tuesburg and Yost Family Helps to Revive the Livingston County Historical Society in 1963

After being dormant for 26 years, Judge Tuesburg decided the Livingston County Historical Society should be started back up again. In 1963, Judge Tuesburg was 85 years old and was the only surviving officer (Secretary).

In his 1985 book titled *Livingston County Historical Society: Its Beginning and Some Later Years*, Paul Yost recounted how the Historical Society was rejuvenated.

Early in November, 1963, after my return from the summer in West Virginia, Mr. Tuesburg called me to his office, and said he was reviving the Livingston County Historical Society, and asked would I be willing to serve as President with Reid Tombaugh as Vice president, and Tuesburg, Sec, I said I would. He then asked me to return to his office on the 12th to sign the following letter, which Reid also signed later. This letter was sent to 26 persons throughout the county, as follows:

Pontiac, Illinois
November 12, 1963

Perhaps you didn't know that Livingston County has a Historical Society? Well, it has had one for a lot of years and it has been kept alive in the hope of one day reviving it.

It was a lively organization at first, and actually got out a printed bulletin about the Indian tribes of the county, but its original officers and members have died and no one has replaced them, and a lot of interesting memories died with them.

Temporary officers having recently been chosen, practically all the original ones being deceased, and these new officers, feeling that the Society should be revived, are calling a dinner meeting which you are invited to attend as a guest of the Society. This dinner will be held at Paul's New Log Cabin in Pontiac, on Tuesday, November 19th, 1963, at 6:30 P.M., for the purpose of electing permanent officers and making plans for future activities.

As it will be necessary to make reservations, a card is enclosed for your acceptance if you can attend, or regrets if you can't. Please fill out and mail the card as soon as you get this. Reservations must be in by Monday, November 18, 1963.

Hopefully yours,

Reid R. Tombaugh
Reid. R. Tombaugh, Vice President

J. Paul Yost
J. Paul Yost, President

L. W. Tiesburg
L. W. Tiesburg, Secretary

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The 26 people who were sent the letter are shown below. The 15 people with an asterisk attended the meeting.

Mr. Lyle Husted, Cornell, Ill.
Mr. Clark Husted*, Cornell, Ill.
Mr. Lyle Girard*, Manville, Ill.
Mr. Aman Sheeler, Graymont, Ill.
Mr. Glenn Antrim*, Graymont, Ill.
Mr. Floyd Byrne*, 916 E. Water St., Pontiac, Ill.
Mr. Norman Holzhauer*, R.F.D. 3, Pontiac, Ill.
Mr. Percy Donnell, 612 W. South St., Pontiac, Ill.
Mr. Reid R. Tombaugh*, 555 W. Grove St., Pontiac, Ill.
Mrs. Clarence Miller, 123 E. Walnut St., Pontiac, Ill.
Mrs. C. Sterry Long*, 304 E. Water St., Pontiac, Ill.

Mrs. John G. Dargan, 103 W. South St., Pontiac, Ill.
Mr. J. Paul Yost* , 298 W. Water St., Pontiac, Ill.
Miss Hellene Yost*, 298 W. Water St., Pontiac, Ill.
Miss Catharine Yost*, 298 W. Water St., Pontiac, Ill.
Mr. Jerome Pearre, N. Court St., Pontiac, Ill.
Mr. Lewis McGregor, Humiston Haven, Pontiac, Ill.
Mr. L. W. Tuesburg*, 102 E. Henry St., Pontiac, Ill.
Mr. Henry W. Phillips, Fairbury, Ill.
Mrs. Joshua Dawson, Fairbury, Ill.
Mr. O. D. Brissenden, 405 W. Lincoln St., Pontiac, Ill.
Mrs. H. O. Allison* , 734 W. Henry St., Pontiac, Ill.
Mrs. Karl V. Fischler*, 103 W. Reynolds St., Pontiac, Ill.
Mrs. Esther Balbach*, 634 W. Water St., Pontiac, Ill.
Mrs. C. M. Dargan, E. Washington St., Pontiac, Ill.
Mrs. Lucille Goodrich* , Fairbury, Ill.

*Those attending the Dinner (Fifteen)

The first meeting of the revived Historical Society was on Tues. Nov. 19, 1963, at the New Log Cabin Restaurant, in Pontiac. I now quote from my sister, Catharine's "Day Book" (Diary): "At 6:30 P.M. we were guests of The Livingston County Historical Society for dinner at the New Log Cabin Restaurant, Paul acted as host and as temporary President for the reorganization meeting. The officers elected were: J. Paul Yost, President; Reid Tombaugh, Vice President; L. W. Tuesburg, Secretary.

It was decided to have the meetings every two months, and to meet in the Basement Assembly Room at the Pontiac Public Library.

Hellene, Catharine, and Paul Yost all joined the Historical Society. Paul was named the President of the group. Judge Tuesburg and Paul Yost ran many newspaper ads in the Pontiac Daily Leader and they were able to rebuild the group by adding new members.

Hellene Yost Judge for Children's Essay Contest in 1964

Pontiac seventh and eighth graders had an essay contest sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary group. Hellene Yost was one of the judges for the essay contest.

Hellene Yost Participates in Charity Event in 1964

She was president of the United Church Women in Pontiac and helped to raise funds for charity. The funds were used for various charitable projects including filling school bags, yard goods, bandages for leper colonies, clean and used clothing and sweaters for Hong Kong.

Hellene and Paul Yost Present a Play in 1965

The Pontiac Woman's Club decided to do a special event to celebrate its 50 year anniversary. They decided to have a Word War I era play directed by Paul Yost. Hellene Yost was in charge of costumes.

Paul Yost Directs Play to Raise Funds for Winston Churchill Junior College in Pontiac in 1966

Funds were needed to buy books and other materials for the library at the new college in Pontiac. Paul Yost agreed to direct a play to raise funds.

The April 10, 1966, Pantagraph published an article about the play and it included a photograph of Paul Yost. In 1966, Paul Yost was 69 years of age.



Pontiac. Harry R. Lovell, left, has the leading role in Noel Coward's "Nude With Violin" to be staged Tuesday and Wednesday in Pontiac High School auditorium under direction of J. Paul Yost, right, to benefit Winston Churchill College library.

Judge Tuesburg Dies in 1966

Judge Tuesburg, who with Paul Yost revived the Livingston County Historical Society after it had gone dormant for 29 years, died in 1966. The June 27, 1966, edition of the Pantagraph published his obituary.

Former Livingston Judge, L. W. Tuesburg, Dies

PONTIAC — L. W. Tuesburg, 87, a former Livingston County Judge, of 102 E. Henry, died at 4:15 a.m. Thursday at St. James Hospital. He had been ill only a short time, and entered the hospital Sunday.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Harris Funeral Home, the Rev. H. Sheldon Pattison officiating. Interment will be in Abbey Mausoleum in South Side Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5 to 9 o'clock tonight at the funeral home.

Judge Tuesburg was born Sept. 28, 1878, at Farm Ridge. He moved to Pontiac in 1924, and married Grace Stevens in September of 1907 at Pontiac. She died in 1957.

Survivors

Surviving are a nephew, T. W. Hinds of Pontiac; and a grand niece, Mrs. Lorelee Wahls of Chenoa.

He taught school near Manville for two years after completing a commercial course at Pontiac High School. He then returned to the high school. After graduating, he taught at the Kelly School and at Monticello. Judge Tuesburg then spent a year at Illinois Wesleyan University, and finished his law studies under a Pontiac attorney.

Judge Tuesburg began practicing law in 1904, and was associated for many years with the late George Armstrong. He also practiced law in Chicago from 1932 to 1937.

TKE Founder

In 1956 he became a Livingston County judge, a position he held until 1962. He was a founder of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, and had been nationally prominent in its affairs.

He was a member of the First Methodist Church and served on its official board. Judge Tuesburg joined the Pontiac Kiwanis Club in 1922, served as its president for a term, and was division lieutenant governor in 1950.

During World War II he was in charge of the county draft board. He was active in Red Cross work, a member of the Livingston County Bar Association and the Livingston County Historical Society.

He was one of the three trustees who administered the Bolander Trust, which provided funds for St. James Hospital's new building and for the Pontiac Public Library's new building.

CHAPTER 15

1970 to 1979

Catharine Yost Dies in 1970 at the Age of 76

The February 18, 1970, Pantagraph published her obituary.

Miss Catharine Yost

PONTIAC.—Miss Catharine Virginia Yost, 76, of 298 W. Water, a local artist, died at 10:10 a.m. Tuesday at St. James Hospital. She had been ill for six weeks.

Her funeral will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Raleigh J. Harris Funeral Home. The Rev. Glenn Strang will officiate. Burial will be in South Side Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5-9 o'clock tonight at the funeral home.

She was born Sept. 16, 1893, in Pontiac, a daughter of Z. F. and Ella Louise Hartshorn Yost. She attended Pontiac schools, Randolph-Macon Woman's College at Lynchburg, Va., the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts and the Art Institute of Chicago.

Her father was an attorney in Pontiac and she was the great-great-niece of George Catlin, a well-known portrait painter of the American Indian. Miss Yost was one of the founding members of the Amitytown Society of Painters and was a member and current president of the 20th Century Club. She was also a member of the Pontiac Woman's Club and the Livingston County Historical Society.

Surviving are a brother, J. Paul and a sister, Miss Hellene L. Yost, both of Pontiac.

Miss Yost was a member of the United Presbyterian Church and the women's organizations of the church.

Three Children of Zoath Host Did Not Die in Chronological Order

Hellene Yost was the oldest and was 79 years of age when her sister Catharine died at the age of 76.

Last Will & Testament of Catharine Yost

The general details of her will are given below. A complete copy of her will can be viewed or downloaded from <https://tinyurl.com/2p8xwter>.

The first part of her will directs that a gravestone be purchased for her in the Pontiac South Side Cemetery.

The next part of her stipulates that all her possessions were left to her sister Hellene and her brother Paul.

If they all died together, she then left the Fairview farm including a house and 25 acres to her cousin, Guerin E. Johnston. Once her cousin died, the property was to be given to the town of Fairview, West Virginia and should be converted to the Yost Memorial Park and Wildlife Sanctuary. This includes maintenance of the cemetery where her great-grandfather David Youst, was buried.

Also, if they died together, she left her portion of the Yost House to the Livingston County Historical Society. She also designated \$3,000 for the Pontiac Presbyterian Church and \$1,000 to the American Bible Society where her grandfather Reverend T. C. Hartshorn worked.

She also designated \$4,000 to the Randolph-Macon Women's College. Half the money was to be used by the Greek Department and half by the Alumni Association. She left \$5,000 to the Wesley Methodist Church in Fairview, West Virginia.

Catharine also stated she owned real estate in the State of Kansas.

32nd Annual Amitytown Exhibition Held in 1972

The November 19, 1972, edition of the Pantagraph published a story about this event. Paul Yost exhibited a micro-painting called *Road to the Carport*. Pontiac High School art teacher Bob Sear was also present at this event.



TURTLE SCULPTURE. Andrew Smith, left, is exhibiting two pieces of sculpture. His welded turtle is checked by Robert Sear, Pontiac Township High art instructor.

35th Annual Amitytown Art Exhibit Held in 1975

The November 8, 1975, Pantagraph published a story about this event.

Amateur Art—a Different Thing

Amateur art is not just a smaller or watered-down version of the kind of art made by professional artists. It is an entirely different kind of thing.

The 35th annual art exhibit by the Amitytown Society of Painters of Pontiac is an excellent example of some of the virtues which can be found in the work of a dedicated group of amateurs. You might say that the obvious difference between professional artists and amateurs is that amateurs lack skill. While it is true that various degrees of skill are represented in a show of work by amateurs such as this one, it is also true that some amateur painters, such as Virginia Diaz and Joan Lyons, are very skillful indeed.

A more important difference is that amateur artists, such as the people in the Amitytown group, often draw upon their surroundings and personal experiences for subject matter, where professional artists frequently draw upon the world of art and what other artists are doing— a world far removed from tree-lined streets and sunny afternoons in Central Illinois.

Life in a small town such as Pontiac provides a much different picture than life in New York or Chicago. The Amitytown painters paint many trees, backyards filled with trees or summer cottages along tree-shaded streams And many buildings such as the courthouse, or homes. And lots of grassy lawns. There are pleasing scenes by Dorothy Ransdell, Donna Dixon, Lila McCoy, Linda Tullos, Muriel Pierce, Ruth Frederick, Joan Lyons and Virginia Diaz. Sometimes landscapes are made into colorful designs, as Carol Simmons and Connie Diaz Powers have done. Professionals don't often attempt portraits, and when they do, the subject is most often merely the starting point for a composition. The rest of the time, portraits are left to specialists.

But amateur artists will attempt anything and likenesses of family and friends are very important to amateur painters.

Donna Dixon, Lawney Bruen, Libby Wahls and Dorothy Ransdell are among artists exhibiting portraits.

Still life painting remains an important challenge to learners, and there are some excellent still life paintings in the Pontiac show.

Wilma Konwinski, Linda Tullos. Dorothy Ransdell, Dorothy Beck, Lawney Gruen. Lila McCoy and Libby Wahls all have still life paintings on display.

Flowers are another subject of interest. Ruth Frederick painted flowers in oil and Janice Dietiker and Barbara Tubutis painted them in watercolor. Other watercolor artists are Ruth Wrightam and J. Paul Yost.

Other interesting work includes sculpture by Robert Sear, a pencil etching by Bob McCoy, horses and 3-D wood designs by Charlene Kipfer, color music by Connie D. Powers and some real or imaginary scenery by Muriel Stephens and June Pickett.

Paul Yost Argues for Changing the Spelling of the Vermilion River in 1976

Paul Yost wrote a letter to the Editor of the Pontiac Daily Leader arguing the spelling of the Vermilion River should be changed to "Vermillion River." His July 13, 1976 letter is show below.

The recent article in The Leader in regard to the Vermillion River, written by Mrs. Cole, was very interesting, and I would like to extend my congratulations to her.

Since I have always lived by it, the Vermillion has meant a great deal to me. My father, Z. F. Yost, was an enthusiastic fisherman, and loved the river, too. He collected many fossils from the river bed behind our house.

Today, as in the 1930s, when one of the letter "L"s was dropped from its name, (much to my annoyance!), I am concerned with its spelling. It was always spelled with two "L"s (Vermillion) in the early days. (See: "Views of Pontiac, 1895, Edited by O. F. Pearre" and in the Views of Pontiac printed by The Commercial Club, Pontiac, IL. In 1913).

Perhaps the name came from the French word "Vermillion," or from the French Latin "Vermicular Kermes, as indicated by Mr. Jobst—hence a winding or meandering stream — rather than red. Thus the early cartographers were distinguishing it from the other "Vermilion," and "Little Vermilion" rivers.

During this Bicentennial year, we are all becoming more interested in our heritage, so I would suggest that in Pontiac we officially revert to the old and traditional spelling — "Vermillion."

J. Paul Yost
298 W. Water Street
Pontiac, Ill.

Hellene Yost Dies in 1979

The July 23, 1979, Pantagraph published her obituary.

Hellene Yost

The funeral of Hellene L. Yost, 87, of 298 W. Water St., a retired teacher of Latin and English, who died Saturday, will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Raleigh J. Harris Funeral Home. The Rev. Kenneth Dobson will officiate. Burial will be in South Side Cemetery. Visitation will be from 6 to 8 tonight.

She was born Nov. 18, 1891, in Pontiac, a daughter of Z. F. and Ella Hartshorn Yost. Surviving is a brother, J. Paul Yost, Pontiac. A sister preceded her in death.

Miss Yost, who taught at Pontiac High School and Rivesville, W. Va., High School, received a bachelor's degree in Greek from Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Lynchburg, Va., and a master's degree in English from the University of Chicago.

She was a member of First Presbyterian Church, Pontiac Woman's Club, Livingston County Historical Society and the Association of Presbyterian Women, and was president of the Presbyterian women's group in 1959 and 1960. She was an associate member of the 20th Century Literary Society.

Last Will & Testament of Hellene Yost

The general details of her will are given below. Her will is basically identical to Catharine Yost's will. A complete copy of her will can be viewed or downloaded from <https://tinyurl.com/3xddt6pc>.

The first part of her will directs that a gravestone be purchased for her in the Pontiac South Side Cemetery.

The next part of her stipulates that all her possessions were left to her sister Catharine and her brother Paul.

If they all died together, she then left the Fairview farm including a house and 25 acres to her cousin, Guerin E. Johnston. Once her cousin died, the property was to be given to the town of Fairview, West Virginia and should be converted to the Yost Memorial Park and Wildlife Sanctuary. This includes maintenance of the cemetery where her great-grandfather David Youst, was buried.

Also, if they died together, she left her portion of the Yost House to the Livingston County Historical Society. She also designated \$3,000 for the Pontiac Presbyterian Church and \$1,000 to the American Bible Society where her grandfather Reverend T. C. Hartshorn worked.

She also designated \$4,000 to the Randolph-Macon Women's College. Half the money was to be used by the Greek Department and half by the Alumni Association. She left \$5,000 to the Wesley Methodist Church in Fairview, West Virginia.

Catharine also stated she owned real estate in the state of Kansas.

CHAPTER 16

1980 to 1989

Paul Yost in Contact with Author of Book *The Monongalia Story*

Earl L. Core was an author who published several books about the history of Monongalia County in West Virginia. Mr. Core was in contact with Paul Yost when he wrote his third book in a series of five volumes titled *The Monongalia Story*. This book was originally published sometime prior to 1980.

On page 552 of this book, J. Paul Yost provided a photograph of Dr. Fielding H. Youst and it shown below.

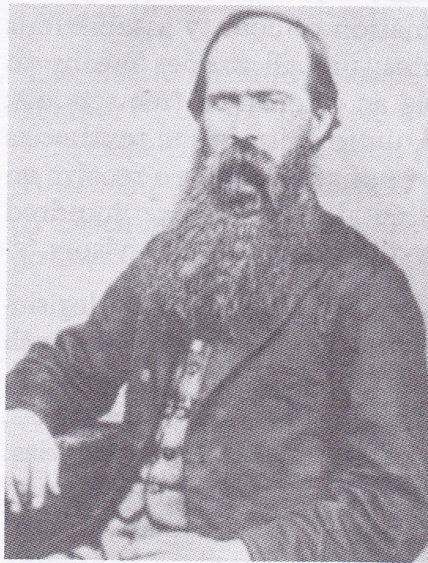
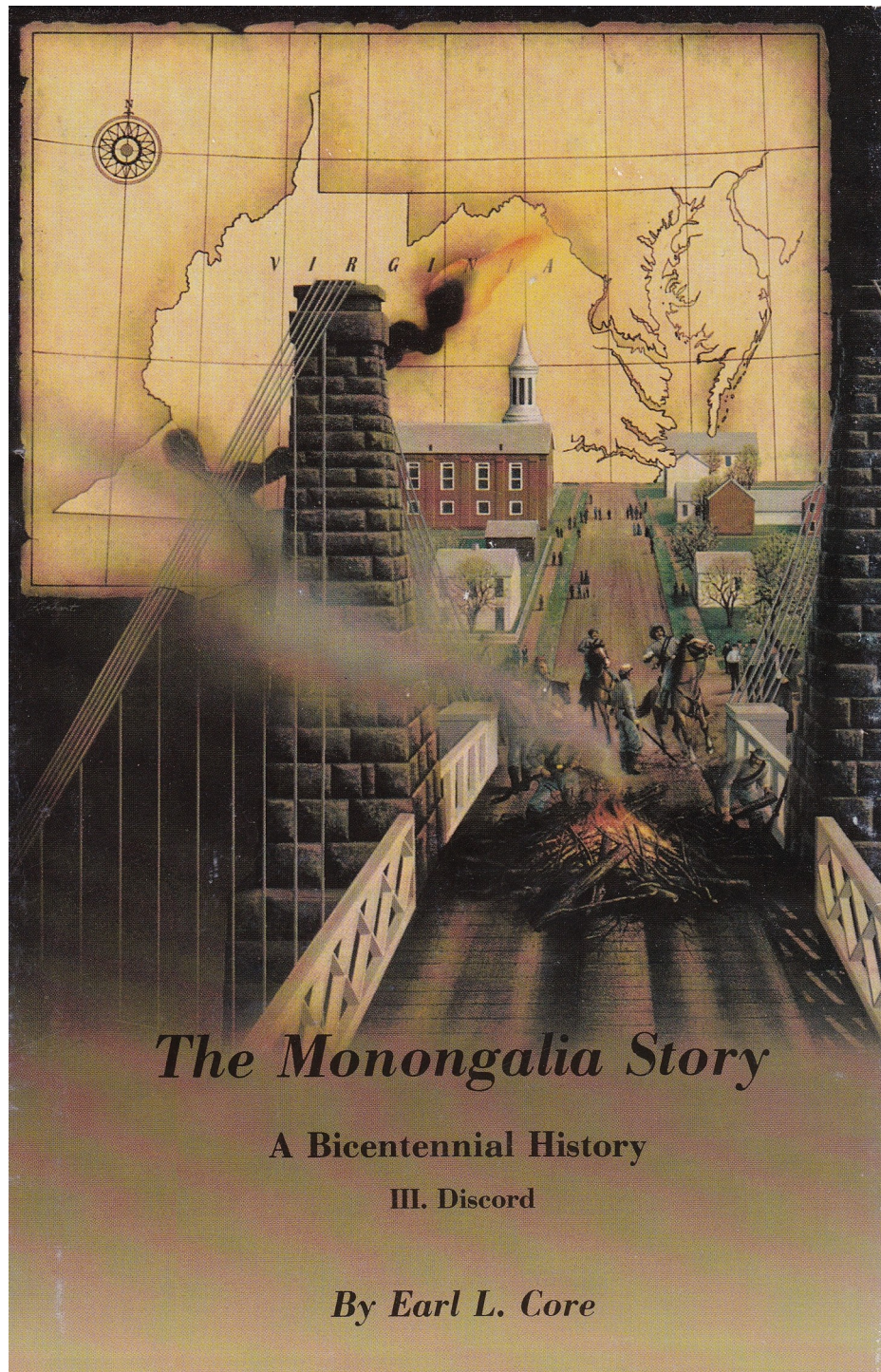


Fig. 92. Dr. Fielding H. Youst.
(Photo courtesy J. Paul Yost, Pontiac, Illinois.)

The author of the book also made a footnote about a personal communication he had with Paul Yost of Pontiac, Illinois.

2. *Cyclopedia of Marion County*, p. 252; pers. comm., J. Paul Yost, Pontiac, Ill., son of Zoath Freeman. The family name was originally spelled Youst and was changed to Yost by some of Dr. Fielding's children. Fielding Harris ("Hurry-Up") Yost, was a grandson of Nicholas.

Book Cover



J. Paul Yost contributed some Yost family information to the author of this book.

Paul Yost Joins Board of Livingston County Historical Society in 1981

The October 24, 1981, issue of the Pantagraph published a story about the new officers and board members for the Livingston County Historical Society.

The Livingston County Historical Society announced its 1982 officers and new Board members Thursday night. New officers are J. M. Luther, president, Harold Byrne, vice president; and Marcia Cox, treasurer. New board members are J. Paul Yost, Linda Unterman, Betty Harris, and Paul Trainor.

The society also announced it will sponsor a ham and bean luncheon from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 21 at the First Methodist Church. Tickets may be purchased from Harold Byrne or at the church. The society's November meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 24 at the Pontiac Library. Mabel Marlar will speak on the early history of Livingston County.

Paul Yost Involved with Project to Save the Jones House in Pontiac

The December 27, 1981, Pantagraph published a story about the project to save and renovate the Jones House at 314 East Madison Street in Pontiac. Paul Yost was one of the many people involved with the successful project to renovate this house.

Paul Yost Donated Books on Three Occasions in 1982 to the Pontiac Library

He donated these books in memory of three different people in 1982.

Harold Washington First Black Mayor of Chicago in 1983

The Pantagraph asked various Pontiac people to comment on this historic event. The response of Paul Yost is shown below.

I would sincerely hope that it would show that when they get out the vote what will happen. I think that it is very important that all of use should vote and that many times people feel that this isn't important. The election in Chicago should show how important the vote is.

Harold Todd's Model Airplanes Flown on J. Paul Yost Farm in Fairbury

The 1983 Pantagraph did a human interest story about Mr. Harold Todd and his model airplanes. Mr. Todd said he lived on a farm owned by J. Paul Yost and that he had farmed this land for 30 years. This is likely the same farm as identified before in Yates Township south of Weston and southwest of Fairbury.

Mr. Todd made and flew model airplanes made from balsa wood. His friends called him the “Airplane Man.”

Paul Yost Researched the History of the Mill Street Bridge

The January 25, 1984, Pantagraph published a story about the history of the Mill Street bridge. One source of information about the history of the bridge was J. Paul Yost of Pontiac.

Paul Yost Commented in 1984 on the Release of the Movie Grandview USA

This movie was filmed in Pontiac and it first aired in 1984. Paul Yost commented on the newly released movie to the Pantagraph.

It was fun. I thought it was excellent, said Paul Yost, Pontiac. Of course, personally I don't care for the (earthy) language.

Yost said he was a member of the New York Theater Guild from 1928 to 1932 and worked in theater at the time, so he was watching for acting talent.

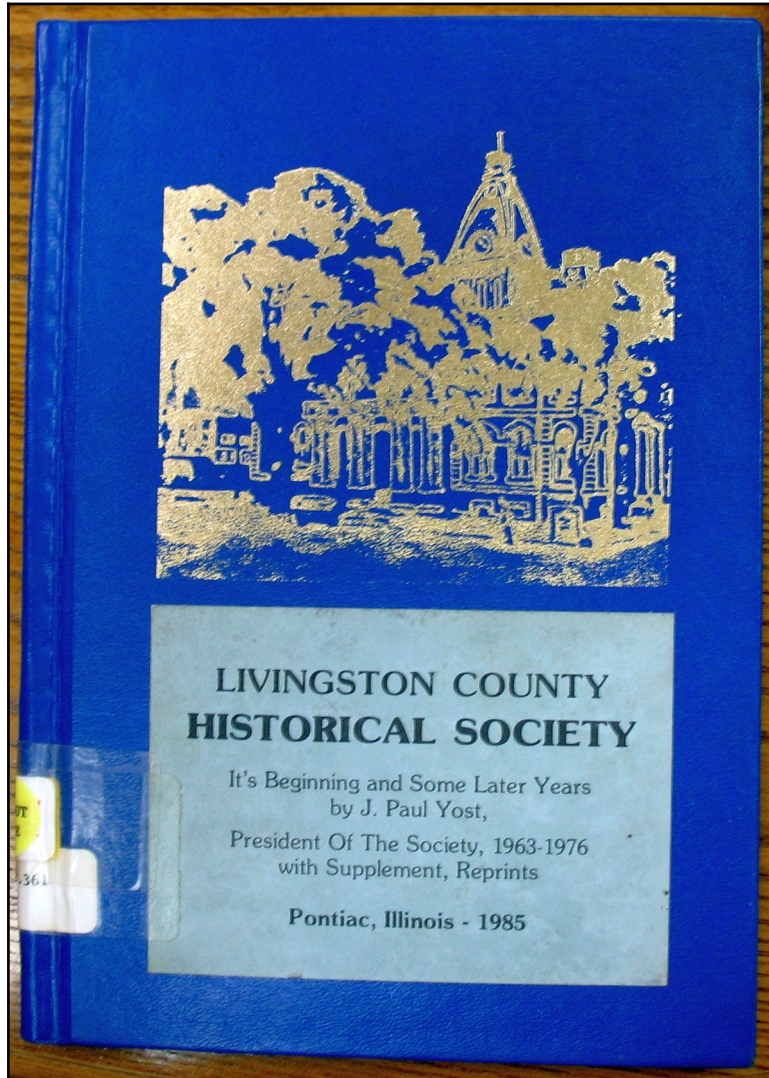
I thought the talent was good, he said. I thought it was a good show for Pontiac. It puts us on the map.

Paul Yost Researched and Wrote History Book about Pontiac Elk's Club in 1956

A 1984 Pantagraph story about the history of the Pontiac Elk's Club reported that J. Paul Yost wrote a history of the local Pontiac Chapter of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks in 1956, commemorating its 50th Anniversary.

Paul Yost Publishes Book on History of Livingston County Historical Society in 1985

Paul Yost researched and wrote a short book about the history of the Livingston County Historical Society. Relatively few copies of this book were printed. His book has many interesting facts and history of the area.



In his 1985 book, Paul Yost included photographs of his two sisters. These photographs are shown below.



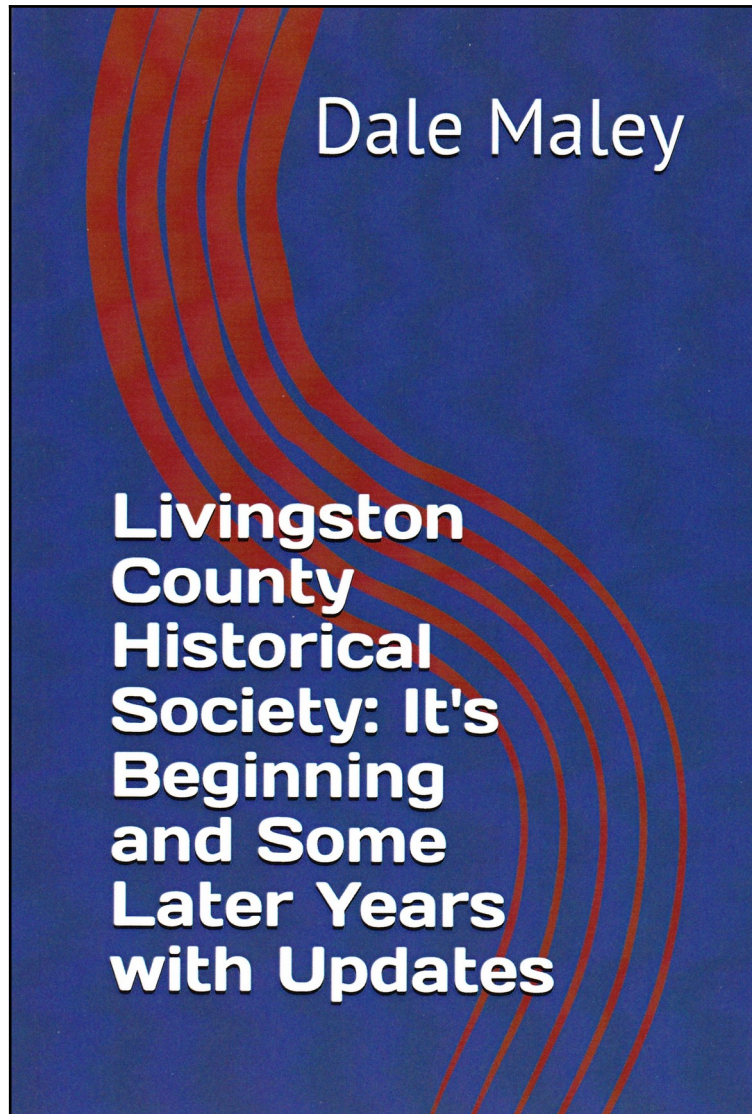
Catharine V. Yost



Hellene L. Yost

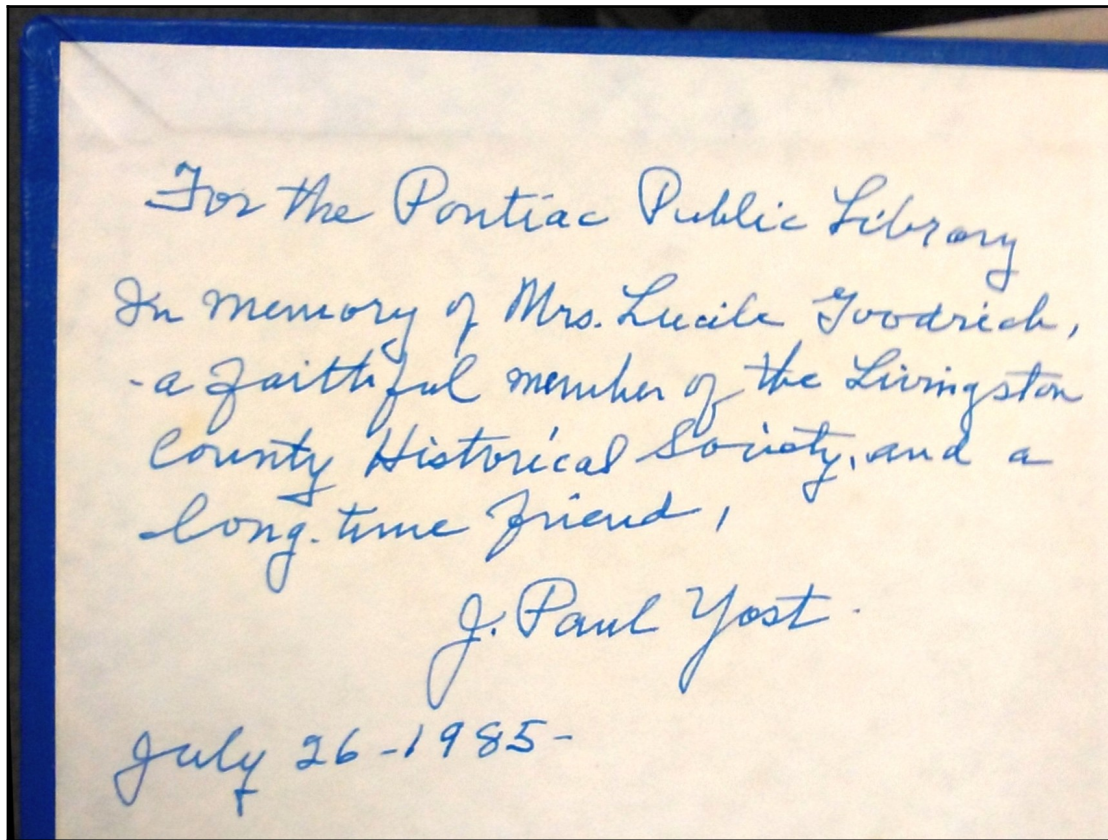
2018 Update of Paul Yost's 1985 Book

In 2018, the author updated and re-published the book written originally by Paul Yost. The title is *Livingston County Historical Society: It's Beginning and Some Later Years with Updates* by Dale C. Maley. The updated book is available from Amazon.com.



Paul Yost Donated Copy of His Book to the Pontiac Library

Paul Yost signed this copy of his book that he donated to the Pontiac Library.



Paul Yost Appointed to Pontiac Library Board in 1987

The Pontiac City Council appointed J. Paul Yost to a three year term on the Pontiac Public Library Board of Trustees.

Paul Yost Dies at the Age of 91 in 1988

The March 4, 1988, Pantagraph published his obituary.

J. Paul Yost

PONTIAC.—J. Paul Yost, 91, of Pontiac died at 2:40 a.m. yesterday (March 3, 1988) at Saint James Hospital, Pontiac. He had been seriously ill for three weeks.

His funeral will be 2 p.m. Saturday at Raleigh J. Harris Funeral Home, Pontiac, the Rev. William Sexton officiating. Burial will be in South Side Cemetery, Pontiac.

Mr. Yost was born on Jan. 8, 1897, in Pontiac, a son of Z. F. and Ella Hartshorn Yost.

Two sisters preceded him in death.

Mr. Yost graduated from Pontiac Township High School and was a 1920 graduate of the University of Chicago.

An attorney, Mr. Yost had practiced in West Virginia. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, the Pontiac Elks Lodge, the Pontiac Public Library Board and the Livingston County Historical Society. He served as the society's president from 1963 to 1976.

Mr. Yost was interested in theater and directed many productions in Pontiac. He also had directed plays on Broadway in New York.

He wrote the book ***"Livingston County Historical Society: Its Beginnings and Some Later Years,"*** published in 1985.

Memorials may be made to the Pontiac Public Library or the Livingston County Historical Society.

Last Will & Testament of J. Paul Yost

The general details of his will are given below. A complete copy of his will can be viewed or downloaded from <https://tinyurl.com/5aafbe78>.

The first part of his will directs that any real estate he owned in Marion County, West Virginia, be given to the State of West Virginia and converted to the J. Paul Yost Memorial Park and Wildlife Sanctuary. This includes perpetual care of the Yost Cemetery where his great grandfather David Youst and his great-grandmother Rebecca Fluharty Youst are buried.

He also left the value of the Mitchell County, Kansas, farmland to the Wesley Methodist Church in Fairview, West Virginia.

Paul left the houses he owned in Block 65 of the original town of Pontiac, including the cottage at 230 West Water Street and the Yost House at 298 West Water Street, to the city of Pontiac. Paul asked that said real estate was to be employed as a center for the non-performing arts in and for the City of Pontiac, and said museum should be known as the Catharine V. Yost Art Gallery and Museum. Paul also stipulated that no liquor be served, used, sold, or distributed or consumed on any premises owned by him.

Paul stipulated that all items in the houses shall not be sold and shall remain in the houses. He left these items to the City of Pontiac. Specific possessions listed in his will included the following.

- His grandmother Hartshorn's wedding trousseau gown of 1859
- One certain brown silk dress and accompanying cameo coral jewelry set.
- His mother's green silk and tan broadcloth wedding dress..
- Two certain Bohemian glass vases, red overlayed with white and gold from Tiffany's of New York.
- All paintings done by his sister Catharine V. Yost.

Paul's will included specific financial gifts to the following groups.

- Pontiac Presbyterian Church
- American Bible Society (where his grandfather worked)
- City of Pontiac for South Side Cemetery maintenance
- Salvation Army
- Randolph-Macon Women's College
- Pontiac Public Library
- Wesley Methodist Church at Fairview, West Virginia
- University of Chicago (He was 1920 graduate)

-Evenglow Lodge
-Livingston County Historical Society

Paul's will then directed that the remainder of his estate be used to establish the J. Paul Yost Trust. He directed the following people manage this trust.

1. Faraday J. Strock
2. Dr. John C. Purnell
3. Mary Catherine Dievendorf
4. Robert Sear
5. Ronald K. Fellheimer

The net income from his estate should be used for the benefit of the inhabitants of the City of Pontiac for educational and charitable programs. Paul specified that 15% of the net income be used by the Pontiac Presbyterian Church and another 15% by the Pontiac Public Library. The trustees should use the remaining 70% of the net income to support programs confined to the City of Pontiac, such programs to be the Vermilion Players or similar programs. Paul stated the trustees could also use the net income for college scholarships.

Any future trustees must live in Pontiac and in Livingston County.

Paul Yost Leaves the Yost House to the City of Pontiac

A December 5, 1989, Pantagraph article reported that Paul Yost had left two houses to the City of Pontiac in his will.

In other action, the council agreed to solicit proposed uses from the public for two properties given to the city as a gift by the late Paul Yost. The city received homes at 230 and 298 W. Water Street as gifts in Yost's will. The city has not yet agreed to accept the gifts, choosing instead to look at possible uses first.

We're trying to see if there's any possible use if the city would accept it, said Mayor Mike Ingles. Suggestions for possible uses are due Jan. 15 and should be directed to the city administrator's office at Pontiac City Hall.

CHAPTER 17

1990 to 1999

City Accepts Yost House

An August 7, 1990, article in the Pantagraph reported on the gift of two houses to the City of Pontiac by Paul Yost.

Accepted the bequest of a home at 298 W. Water St. from the J. Paul Yost Trust.

The city has already approved a contract with the Livingston County Historical Society, which will operate the home as a museum.

The Council, however, opted not to accept the bequest of Yost's second home at 230 W. Water St. That home will be sold by the trust, with proceeds being used for renovations of the home at 298 W. Water St. The city also will receive 20 percent of the trust's net income to cover costs of operating the museum.

Historical Society Unveils Plan for Yost House

The February 20, 1991, edition of the Pantagraph reported the plans for the Yost House.

Historical Society plans to open gallery, museum in Pontiac's Yost Home

PONTIAC — The Yost home in Pontiac will be opened as an art gallery and museum sometime this spring, officials with the Livingston County Historical Society said yesterday. A target date of May 1 has been set for opening the Catharine V. Yost Art Gallery and Museum in the former Yost residence at 298 W. Water St., said John Perring, chairman of the committee working on the project for the historical society.

Beth Close, a real estate agent with Century 21 — Sancken Farm & Home Realty in Pontiac and a society member, was named yesterday as live-in curator of the museum.

The home, which was built between 1898 and 1900, was left to the city for use as a museum in the will of J. Paul Yost, who died in March 1988. City officials signed an agreement last year allowing the historical society to manage the property and operate the home as a museum.

Although volunteers are still sorting through contents of the home, Perring said the house is "just chuck full of many heirlooms handed down through the family for who knows how long." Items found in the house that may

be used in displays include many of Catharine Yost's art works, a wedding dress from the 1850s and other clothing, letters dating to 1860, antique furniture, fine china and dishware and a collection of cast iron toys, said Perring, who is a past president of the society.

In addition to serving as a museum and art gallery, the home may be made available for club meetings and community events. such as the annual house walk sponsored by the Pontiac Women's Club, he said. Hours have not yet been set for the museum.

Although no money in the J. Paul Yost Trust was specifically ear-marked to maintain the house, members of the trust board have agreed a percentage of the trust's income should be used for maintenance and improvements.

The house was built by attorney Z. F. Yost and his wife, Ella (Hartshorn) Yost. Many furnishings for the house were purchased in Chicago and others were family heirlooms brought to Central Illinois from West Virginia.

The couple's three children — Paul, Catharine and Hellene — continued to live in the home after their parents died. Paul Yost graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in philosophy and received a law degree at the University of West Virginia, according to several historical society members.

After attending school he went to New York where he worked on several Broadway productions before returning to Pontiac. He was president of the historical society for 11 years and was active in the Vermillion Players.

Society members said Catharine Yost was an accomplished artist who studied at the Chicago Art Institute and Hellene Yost was a Greek and Latin scholar. "They were just unique people with a terrific range of interests," Mrs. Close said, noting those interests provided many useful items for a museum.

Bob Sear, a member of the society and the J. Paul Yost Trust, said, "I always thought of them as the last of the aristocrats."

Yost House Entered into Contest in 1992

A May 12, 1992, Pantagraph article reported on this contest.

Pontiac landmark museum vying for governor's award

PONTIAC — The Yost House Museum and Arts Center in Pontiac was evaluated yesterday afternoon by a Springfield inspection team as a category semi-finalist for a Governor's Home Town Award.

Museum Curator Beth Close said the team of experts was especially impressed by the amount of work done by local volunteers preparing for public visits. "The home still contains many old letters and records which tell an adventure story, a love story and a history story," she said.

The three-story frame home is located one-half block west of Mill Street Bridge on the north bank of the Vermilion River. It was built in 1898 for Pontiac attorney Zoath Freeman Yost, who moved to Pontiac from Fairview, W. Va. He married Pontiac native Ella Hartshorn in 1890.

Their children Hellene L., Catharine V. and John Paul, never married and continued living in the home with its original family belongings until their deaths. When John Paul died in 1988 the home was left to the city of Pontiac.

In 1990 Pontiac and Livingston County Historical Society agreed the historical society would manage the property with a curator on site.

Public hours for the museum are 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday through Sunday with a \$2 admission fee. Other hours can be scheduled by calling the Yost House during regularly scheduled hours.

Another Pontiac group, Livingston County Alternatives, is also a finalist for an award category for a Governor's Home Town Award.

First Curator of Yost House Resigns in 1994

The Pantagraph reported that a new curator was needed at the Yost House.

Learned Beth Close, curator of the Yost House museum since it opened in 1991, has resigned. The home at 298 W. Water St. is owned by the city and leased to the Livingston County Historical Society, which operates it as a museum from May through December. Laura Sellmyer, president of the historical society, said three applicants replied to a newspaper

advertisement for a curator, and applications are still being accepted. The society is looking for a curator to live in the home rent free.

New Curator Found for Yost House

An August 2, 1994, Pantagraph article reported that new curator had been found.

New curator takes helm at Pontiac's Yost Museum

PONTIAC — Jennifer L. Harbin of Pontiac began duties Monday as curator of the Catharine V. Yost Museum. She replaces Beth Close, who was curator from the opening of the museum in 1991 until she resigned in March.

The home at 298 W. Water St. is owned by the city and leased to the Livingston County Historical Society, which operates it as a museum from May through December. The museum is open from 2 to 4 p.m. each Sunday and for special events.

Several candidates were interviewed for the position after advertisements were placed in The Pantagraph and the Pontiac Daily Leader, said Laura Sellmyer, president of the Livingston County Historical Society.

Ms. Harbin, who has a bachelor's degree in English literature and grammar from Union University in Jackson, Tenn., has begun moving into the Yost home. She will live in the home rent-free as compensation for her duties as curator. Ms. Harbin serves on the Livingston County Historical Society's Board of Directors.

Yost Trust Donates Money for Pontiac First Night Event in 1995

The Pantagraph reported on the Yost Trust making this donation.

Thousands made First Night a success, again, in Pontiac

On behalf of the First Night Committee, I would like to thank the many groups and individuals who made the sixth annual Pontiac First Night a huge success. Almost 3,000 people enjoyed a substance-free evening of first-rate entertainment, great food and incredible fireworks.

An event such as First Night would not be possible without the help of the many businesses who gave unselfishly to our cause. A special thanks to the Apollos Camp and Bennet Humiston Trust, the J. Paul Yost Trust, the City of Pontiac Tourism Bureau and all of the corporate sponsors, business sponsors, donors and companies who donated gifts in-kind.

This event would also not be possible without the organizational help and leadership of the PROUD (Pontiac Re-developing Our United Downtown) office staffed by Karen Grimm and Pat Wahls.

To the Pontiac High School Key Club for the setup help, the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts for their help with the tear-down, and the many volunteers who staffed the locations throughout the evening — thank you.

For the past six years, this event has helped thousands of people from Central Illinois ring in the new year safely. It has also become a model for other communities to follow. We look at those accomplishments with pride and we look forward to many more First Nights to come.

Elizabeth Estes-Cooper

Albert Cashier Cabin Almost Installed Next to the Yost House in 1995

The September 7, 1995, Pantagraph published an article about the Pontiac City Council struggling to figure out how to improve the old county jail.

Albert Cashier was really a woman, Jennie Hodges, who served as a man in the Civil War. After the war, she moved to Saunemin and they provided her with a small house.

Mayor Ingles proposed installing this historic little house between the old jail and the Yost House. This proposal was never implemented.

Fortunately, the small Albert Cashier house now sits in Saunemin and the old jail was torn down and a new jail built adjacent to the Pontiac Prison.

Yost House Decorated for Christmas Visitors in 1996

Because all the possessions of two generations of the Yost family is still in the Yost House, it is relatively easy to decorate the house like it what have appeared many years ago. The Pantagraph reported on the Yost House special decorations.

"A Victorian Christmas Primer" is the theme of the Catharine V. Yost Museums Christmas opening from 1 to 4 p.m. Dec. 1 at 298 W. Water St., Pontiac.

Evergreen boughs, rose hips and mistletoe will grace the house, which is reopening after two months of restoration work.

Entering the house will be like stepping into a storybook about a children's Christmas circa 1898, according to organizers. Visitors will

find a festive period table setting and menu and see preparations for a bean auction and other antiquated party games. There also will be live piano music.

Grade school children visiting the house will be invited to draw straws for a surprise gift and adults will receive something, too.

Admission Is \$2 per person.

Yost House Curator Gets Married in 1997 and Moves Out

Jennifer Harbin married Kevin Devine of rural Bloomington. After they married, Jennifer moved to rural Bloomington.

Yost House Had 529 Visitors in 1996

According to a Pantagraph article, there were 529 people who visited the Yost House in 1996. Volunteers contributed 727 hours of labor to maintain the house.

Attendance in 1996 was down from the the 634 visitors in 1995, but the house was closed for renovations during two of the eight months the museum is open.

East Porch of Yost House Repaired in 1997

According to a Pantagraph article, the east porch was repaired on the Yost House.

Yost House 100 Years Old in 1998

Per a June 7, 1998, Pantagraph article a wedding was held in the Yost House. Cindy Butler and Mike Curtis, both of Pontiac, were united in marriage in a ceremony at 11 a.m. March 6, 1998, at the 100 year-old Yost House, Pontiac.

1998 Also 100th Anniversary of Chautauqua's Being Celebrated in Pontiac

Per an August 28, 1998, Pantagraph article, the Yost House was uniquely decorated for visitors to the house.

Yost Museum Anniversary Displays Tie In with Annual Chautauqua Days

PONTIAC - A series of displays that celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Catharine V. Yost Museum will open to coincide with Pontiac's 100-year celebration of Chautauqua festivals. The first display, which will focus on the construction of the Victorian home, will open Sept. 5 and will lead to a display about the Yost Family's celebration of culture that features their musical side. On display will be many pieces from the private sheet music collection of the Yost family, which dates back to the Civil War era. The display will include a special exhibit of sheet music published by Zoath Freeman Yost in the early 1880s.

Several local pianists will be featured performing on the Yost piano, a baby grand given to Ella Yost by an uncle in 1911. Additionally, visitors to both the Yost Home and to the Sept. 5- 6 Chautauqua Days will be given a chance to meet Zoath Freeman Yost and his young wife, Ella. Historical interpreters will portray the Yosts as they prepare for their departure to the Chautauqua and will travel to Chautauqua Park for the weekend's events just as the family did during Pontiac's first Chautauqua in 1898.

The Yost Museum is a 100- year-old Victorian home which was built by Pontiac attorney Z. F. Yost in 1898. This home, which was occupied solely by the Yost family, contains all of the original furnishings of the family, including many of their personal items.

Some of the furnishings and heirlooms were handed down from the Yost family and many date back to the 1860s. For information regarding the Yost Museum or for tour information, call the museum at (815) 844-7401.

Centennial Birthday Party for Yost House

Per a September 28, 1998, Pantagraph article, a birthday celebration for the house was held in 1998.

Celebration to Mark Yost Home's 100th Year

PONTIAC — Antique blueprints and yellowed invoices that specify how the city's Catharine V. Yost Museum was constructed will be featured during a Centennial Birthday Open House at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

The celebration hosted by the Livingston County Historical Society will commemorate the September 1898 groundbreaking of the house built at 298 W. Water St. that was once the home of Pontiac attorney Zoath Freeman Yost.

Museum curator Jenny Zang said there will be a number of displays regarding the construction of the home as well as entertainment and lecture.

After a brief business meeting for the historical society, guests will be served cake and entertained with turn-of-the century tunes from the baby grand piano played by local pianist Paula Rosenbaum.

Also featured during the open house will be a brief lecture on the history of the house and the Yosts by historical society member Laura Sellmyer. In addition to examining the museum's original floor plan, antiquated specifications drawn up by Miller & Fisher Architects of Bloomington and other 100-year-old papers, visitors may tour the house which has seen few changes in the past century.

The free classic Queen Anne-style structure was constructed as a private residence for the Yost family and, according to Zang, records written by Yost indicate he spent \$8,000 to construct and furnish the home. Furnishings included \$100 worth of plumbing for 10 rooms, which included a footed bathtub, a \$330 Italian marble sink and a \$235 coal furnace system.

Zang said of the items listed in Yost's records, the tub and the sink are among the few details replaced by the family. "The cracked sink is still on site. Of course it's hidden away in the basement," Zang said adding that the sink is a testimony to the saving ways of the Yost family that eventually provided Pontiac with "a clear and complete picture of turn-of-the-century life." The family occupied the home until 1988 when J. Paul Yost, the youngest of the three children, died leaving the home to the city to operate as a museum.

\$8,000 to build the house in 1898 would be equivalent to \$288,532 in today's dollars.

Susan Rittenhouse Writes September 30, 1998, Pantagraph Article on the Yost House

Susan is a native of Pontiac and she writes stories for the Pantagraph.

FLASHBACK:Time Stands Still At The Yost House

As a child, I was an incredible pack rat. To my parents' dismay, I kept everything. Things I should have thrown away: outdated magazines, worn hats, baby teeth. I kept hanging on to my precious possessions for posterity's sake.

About in my mid-20s, I became a cleaner and . tossed everything into the garbage. Unfortunately, today some of the things I threw out are considered antiques or of historical value, and I wish I'd kept them.

This is a dilemma the Yost family of Pontiac never faced. The five members of the Yost household, all deceased, were notorious savers. And fortunately for us, the relics of their past, saved in mint condition by the family, are part of the Yost House legacy. The Yost House celebrated its 100th birthday last week. A pretty large crowd gathered in its parlor to commemorate the occasion, complete with piano playing, singing and a birthday cake decorated with the house's image.

So many interested people showed up that the chair supply ran short.

Here's how the story goes: In September 1898, a Pontiac attorney named Z. F. Yost contracted for the construction of a three-story Queen Anne-style house along the north Vermillion River bank, just west of the Mill Street bridge.

You know the house; it has changed remarkably little in 100 years. The family, two parents and three children, were well educated and had a flair for the arts. The three children never married, all residing in the house until their deaths.

The last survivor, J. Paul Yost, also an attorney, died in 1988. He bequeathed the house and its contents to the city of Pontiac to be preserved as a living record of sorts and a tribute to Pontiac's past. The Yost Trust was formed; its five members are Mary Dievendorf, John Purnell, Ron Fellheimer, Faraday Strock and Bob Sear.

The city owns the Yost House, and it is operated by the Livingston County Historical Society. Bills generated by the home are paid by the trust and any income generated by the museum itself.

"The Yost House has been open for eight years and it gets better every year," said Sear, also president of the historical society. When I tell you that the Yost House looks exactly the same as it has for the past century, I'm not joking. Walk through the front door of this home and you walk back into time. The woodwork, furnishings and paintings are original. Peer into the china cabinet and you'll find wedding presents to the Yosts, who were married in 1890, with the gift tags still remaining.

Walk upstairs to the bed-rooms and you'll find all their clothes, hair combs, aspirin boxes, even facial cream. Toys from their early childhoods are still in prime condition, as well as dozens of books and phonograph records.

"This is a complete history of how a family lived during the early 20th century," said Sear. "People who have grown up here take this kind of history for granted. People who move here are amazed at the detail."

Even the most ordinary of items, such as sales receipts or newspapers, give an extraordinary view of the life Pontiac residents lived in the early 1900s. Jenny Zang is the curator of the museum and lives at the house.

"It's really neat living here," she said. "I never know what I am going to find when I open a box or a closet." Jenny's job is to set up displays and exhibits and to give tours to the roughly 800 people who visit every year.

With the exception of Jenny's room, the Yost House is preserved exactly as the family left it. The plumbing has been updated, but the heating system is the same unit used by Paul Yost. I asked Jenny if it bothered her to live in someone else's home, surrounded by all their possessions.

It seemed a little spooky to me. "No, there are no ghosts here. I am really interested in history and I like it. And no, I don't sit on their furniture ... All of (the home's contents) were theirs and I get a real feeling of what this family was all about. They were artistic, quiet and loyal. They were close-knit."

In the attic are boxes and boxes of treasures yet to be discovered. Jenny and volunteers sort through and catalog items on a regular basis. There are Christmas ornaments, sheet music, cashmere soap, trunks filled with letters, seashells, bread boxes, a buggy and a bicycle.

The Yosts kept everything. "And we are glad they did," said Sear. "Having this museum is absolutely the best use of this house and these belongings. It is such an important part of our history."

History of the Twentieth Century Club

In December of 1998, Susan Rittenhouse wrote a Pantagraph story about the Twentieth Century Club in Pontiac. Mrs. Zoath Yost was one of the founding members of the club.

MILESTONE: A Half-Century in the 20th Century

When Nancy Dargan decided to join a literary club, one of the first programs she heard was "A Christmas Story," recited by the speaker entirely from memory. "What am I getting myself into?" the Pontiac woman thought to herself. As it turns out, she was getting herself into quite a lot.

Last week, Mrs. Dargan celebrated her 50th year as an active member of the Twentieth Century club, Pontiac's 99-year-old literary club. She holds the title of longest active member. Two members, Mrs. Buddy Thompson and Mrs. Anne Vogelsinger, have older service dates, but are no longer active.

To appreciate Mrs. Dargan's accomplishment, you need a little background on literary clubs. In today's world of dual-income households, fast-paced schedules and families on the run, there's not much time for reading, but there are groups who still devote time and effort to the fine art of learning. "We study," Mrs. Dargan said of Twentieth Century.

"The founding members, such as Mrs. Z. F. Yost, were interested in the chautauquas and lectures. These women didn't have jobs outside the home; they took care of their families.

At one point, the members manned the library." Each month, one woman presents a 20-minute program (a long time to speak to an audience, you know) on an assigned topic, ranging from Shakespeare to Kitty Kelly. The 20-member club meets at the home of that month's hostess.

Entertaining is taken seriously, with silver tea services and linen napkins. Some traditions have eased over the past years, however. In the early part of the century, members heard two to four programs per meeting and the speakers were critiqued by a committee.

"My maiden speech was on dance," said Mrs. Dargan, the former Nancy Wolff. "I probably still have it. It's very handy when you've been in a club for 50 years — you can recycle programs." Surely not. Like Ann Landers?

"Oh, I gave a program on Williamsburg, Virginia, once and decided several years later to present it a second time. Half the people weren't members for the first reading and the other half didn't remember it.

Later, I loaned the speech to a friend of mine who belongs to the Clionians." Isn't that like sharing your homework?

"I also loaned a program to a gourmet club from Champaign ... " she said, laughing.

Putting together programs takes research and creativity. It's a lot of work. So why has Mrs. Dargan remained a member for so many years?

"It's very nice to take one afternoon a month to listen to someone talk about a topic that is not on the news that night. I've never considered quitting." Mrs. Dargan is a legacy member. Her mother, Mrs. Louis Wolff ("We never addressed women by their first names," she said), was a member for many years.

"My mother was on the program committee the year I was attending Northwestern University. She called and asked, 'What ideas do you have for topics?' At that time, I was studying sociology ... 'The Cardinal Aspects of Community Life.' the club's members were assigned topics dealing with community life, and the ladies become involved. They even started showing interest in the police department.

"Mrs. Sterry Long, who lived on South Water Street, interviewed the police department. I've always heard that's why there's no parking on the south side of Water Street — because of Helen Long's Twentieth Century program on community life."

(To this day there is no parking on Water Street's south side.) Today's club is more diverse. "We are very fortunate because we have a good group; we have a lot of younger people in our club. I like to think the younger women find it interesting because it has nothing to do with their jobs. We all get the opportunity to study with people we wouldn't know otherwise."

Mrs. Dargan's father, Louis Wolff, worked at the bank for many years and, as a 50-year member of the Rotary Club, now shares a milestone with his daughter. "He kept coming home with pins and awards after being honored. I thought, 'That's awful. He's so old.'

"When I first went into TC, I looked at the older women and thought, 'Aren't they quaint?' Now, I truly must be a senior citizen to our young members. Oh, horrors!"

Counting a 50-year active club membership – to her credit is not surprising to Mrs. Dargan. "It's not unusual when you consider I've lived in the same town all my life or been married to the same man just one year short of 50 years. I'm the fourth generation of my family to live here. Twentieth Century is a legacy for me. If I had a daughter, she'd be a member."

For Mrs. Dargan, being involved comes naturally. "It doesn't happen often enough. Today people roam a lot," she said. "Activities like Twentieth Century are part of small-town living. It's continuity."

Recipient of 1998 J. Paul Yost Teacher's Scholarship Goes on to Earn Doctoral Degree

Richard Trachsel of Chenoa received a doctoral degree in special education. Trachsel, who has his bachelor's and master's degrees from Illinois State, is a psychologist in the Livingston County Special Services Unit in Pontiac and was the recipient of the 1998 J. Paul Yost Teacher's Scholarship.

CHAPTER 18

2000 to 2023

Yost House Gets New Roof in 2002

According to an August 7, 2002, Pantagraph article, the city took bids and then installed a new roof on the Yost House.

Yost House Exterior Painted in 2006

According to a March 8, 2006, Pantagraph article, the City of Pontiac paid \$8,000 to have the Yost House painted. The cost of \$8,000 would be equivalent to \$288,532 in 2022 dollars.

More Information About the Yost Family in 2006 Pantagraph Article

Yost House and Museum a “Place to Hang Your Hat”

PONTIAC — Inside a three-story Queen Anne style house on the banks of the Vermilion River, the souls of a Pontiac family become alive. The five members of the Yost family live on in the house, through their furniture, letters and paintings.

"It's just as much a piece of history as it is a love story" said Beth Close, the curator of the Catharine V. Yost house and museum. "All of the members of the family were here. The children grew up and left, but ended up coming back."

The Catharine V. Yost home on Water Street has been open to the public for about 16 years. A special exhibit of family hats, including children's, will be on display through June.

The house was built in 1898 by Pontiac attorney Zoath F. Yost for his wife Ella and their growing family. The five-bedroom home was owned by the family until the death of the youngest child, John Paul, in 1988. The home and all of its contents, some dating back to the 1850s, were given to the city. It was named after the middle child, Catharine, at her brother's request.

John Paul was active in the Livingston County Historical Society for many years. The house has about 10,000 items, including about 2,000 books that range from the Federalist Papers to children's picture stories.

In 1990, the City of Pontiac agreed to let the Livingston County Historical Society manage the home and have a curator. The house runs with the help of volunteers and donations.

"The Yost family is a very good example of the history of Pontiac and how people lived at the turn of the century" said Laura Sellmyer, who oversees the historical society committee in charge of the house.

"It's a living history, and you can see everything. Seeing their personal items has a bigger impact." Much of the house remains like it did when it was given to the city. Sellmyer said the family saved almost everything over the years.

Zoath Yost originally was from West Virginia. He met Ella Hartshorn, who was a talented musician and active in society events, while on a business trip in Wheeling.

Close said Zoath was never really accepted in Pontiac, but kept his family there out of love for his wife. The couple's three children all received a higher education outside of Pontiac, but never married. Close believes that was because the family found a lasting companionship among each other.

"They had all they needed with their books, music, social network, and each other," she said. "They were well-read and traveled." Much of Catharine's artwork, including paintings of the family, remains on the walls.



Pantagraph/KAREN WALTER

Beth Close, curator of the Catharine V. Yost House and Museum in Pontiac, arranges hats that will be on display during a special exhibit at the house. More than 20 hats are on display, some date back to the turn of the century.

Volunteers Honored at Yost House in Pontiac in 2011

A September 26, 2011, Pantagraph article reported on volunteers being honored for their service to the Yost House in Pontiac.

PONTIAC — The Livingston County Historical Society's Catharine V. Yost Museum and Art Center Steering Committee has honored its volunteers.

Recognized were Beth Yago, Becky Stillwell, Jane Greenberg, Harlan Greenberg, Rod Rasmussen, Sandi Pinkerton, Kay Cordani, Carol Howells, Betty Fairfield, Betty Olsen and Carol Gardner.

Since January 2010, more than 62 volunteers donated nearly 700 hours to the museum. The Yost house was built at the turn of the 20th century and was owned by the same family until it was deeded to the city in the late 1980s. The society manages the property, which includes original furniture, documents and other items.

Susan Rittenhouse Writes Another Yost House Pantagraph Article in 2014

Not long ago, I took a quick drive north — to Pontiac to see my folks. "We won't be home," they said. "We're volunteering at the Yost House!"

The Yost House, now a museum, is a historic five-bedroom Victorian home in Pontiac that was occupied by the same family for 90 years.

It's occasionally open for tours. I thought I'd pop in and chat with my folks during the lull between visitors. I was wrong.

The Yosts were a civic minded family with a flair for the arts and a passion for learning and travel. And they had a penchant for keeping things. The three-story home is completely furnished with their belongings, from childhood toys, circa the late 1800s, to collectibles such as a pair of red vases from the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago.

It's all right there, seemingly unruffled by the 20th and 21st centuries. The parents, Zoath and Ella Yost, had three children, two daughters and a son. None of the siblings married, but remained together in the home. When the surviving son, John Paul Yost, died in 1988, he left the house and its contents to the city of Pontiac.

Livingston County Historical Society volunteers manage the property and provide tours.

Which brings me back to my visit. Pontiac, as you may know, is located on the famous roadway, Route 66. Tourists have become fascinated with the highway, cruising its length and getting their kicks from Los Angeles to Chicago.

I entered the Yost House, prepared to see the volunteer docents standing around, but was surprised to find the place filled with visitors. All the volunteers were busy giving tours.

The door opened and another group walked in. Their eyes took in the staircase and wonderful historical items on display in the entryway.

I felt odd just standing there, so I smiled and said hello. "We're from Christ Church, New Zealand," they said.

Really? Visiting my hometown? I'm no expert, but I knew enough about the house (and had a cheat sheet full of facts), to adequately (kind of) guide the group through the house.

Two minutes later a group from Chicago joined us. "If you don't mind me asking," I said, "but why come to Pontiac?" "We're driving Route 66," said the New Zealanders, "and we love the small towns along the way!"

Pontiac Mayor Bob Russell isn't surprised. He estimates that during the summer, international visitors from at least 10 countries a day come to this Central Illinois town of 10,000.

Ten countries a day? "I was just talking to people from Kuwait," he said. "About three weeks ago, we had visitors from 19 different countries on one day alone."

Russell had a copy of a newspaper from Stuttgart, Germany, featuring a full-page article on Pontiac. The translation read, "No skyscrapers and no wonders... just a main street with one lovely house following another.

"I understand the interest in the "Mother Road," I said, but why here? "

We have so much to do compared to other communities," he said. "There's a car museum, Route 66 Hall of Fame Museum, Livingston County War Museum, 22 large outdoor murals, a mural museum, an airbrush studio run by a well-known Chinese artist and the Yost House."

I shook my head in amazement. "And don't forget the people," he added. "Tourists comment on how friendly people in Central Illinois are. They like the Heartland of America."

I told the mayor I served as an impromptu tour guide. "I'll put you on the payroll," he joked. (Along with all the other volunteers.) I had expected to spend an hour shooting the breeze with family, but ended up chatting with people from New Zealand, England, Joliet, and Chicago.

Who knew? "There's a lot going on here; said Russell. The Yosts would've been pleased."

For more information, call Pontiac's Tourism Office at 815-844-5847.

J. Paul Yost Trust

The will of Paul Yost specified that his assets be placed in a trust. Each year, the trust must file a Form 990-PF with the IRS and this becomes public information. The data below came from the Form 990-PF filed for tax year 2020.

The J. Paul Yost Trust is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization under the IRS tax code. This organization has had tax exempt status since 1991.

The five trustees are Dr. John C. Purnell, Robert Sear, Ronald K. Fellheimer, William Cole, and Jane Diaz.

The fair market value of all assets held by the trust was \$716,018 at the end of 2020. Gross rent income was \$109,915 and total gross income was \$118,980.

The largest four charities receiving donations from the J. Paul Yost trust were the City of Pontiac for Yost House maintenance, the Pontiac Public Library, the Livingston County Food Pantry, and the First Presbyterian Church of Pontiac.

The trust owns farmland in McLean and Livingston Counties.

The trust donates funds to other charitable groups and provides scholarships to students.

CHAPTER 19

Economics

U.S. Census Data

Census data was used to construct the chart shown below.

1920	Occupation	Industry	Has a Job	Income from Other Sources
Zoath	Lawyer	General Practice	N/A	N/A
Hellene	Teacher	High School	N/A	N/A
Catharine	None		N/A	N/A
Paul	Student		N/A	N/A
1930				
Zoath	Lawyer	General	N/A	N/A
Hellene	None		N/A	N/A
Catharine	None		N/A	N/A
Paul	Actor	Stage	N/A	N/A
1940				
Zoath	Attorney	Private Practice	Yes	Yes
Hellene	None		No	Yes
Catharine	None		No	Yes
Paul	None		No	Yes
1950				
Hellene	None		No	N/A
Catharine	None		No	N/A
Paul	Law		Yes	N/A

Zoath Yost

Zoath Yost worked his entire life as a lawyer in Pontiac. At some point, he gained ownership of two farms. At this time, it is unknown how these two farms came into ownership of the Yost family.

Hellene Yost

Except for a couple of years in the 1920s when she worked as a high school teacher, she had no paying job the rest of her life.

Catharine Yost

No information was found that Catharine Yost ever held a paying job.

J. Paul Yost

He worked a few years in Broadway theater in New York City. Although in the 1950 Census he reported he was working as a lawyer, no newspaper articles were found that indicated he was an active lawyer.

Paul was the County Recreational Director for a few years, but this job likely paid very little money.

He likely volunteered his time, or received relatively little pay, for the many local plays he directed or acted in.

Social Security

All three children were able to draw some income from the Social Security system. They applied for Social Security in 1962 and their numbers are shown below.

Hellene Yost	343-38-9380
Catharine Yost	343-38-9379
Paul Yost	343-38-9378

How Did the Three Yost Children Support Themselves after Zoath Yost Died in 1951?

The Yost House they lived in had no mortgage, so they only had to pay the annual property tax and maintenance repairs for the house.

Their primary income source was likely to have been the cash rent from the two farms the family owned in Illinois.

The wills of Catharine and Hellene Yost indicate they owned Kansas farmland. They likely cash rented this farm land as well.

When Catharine Hartshorn, mother of Ella Yost, died in 1920, ownership of the Hartshorn house passed to the Yost family. The three Yost children likely rented out this house until they sold it in the late 1960s when it was torn down for the new bank.

The wills of Catharine and Hellene Yost report they owned the 25 acre Yost Farm in Fairview, West Virginia, as well as a house. This land was mostly timber ground so there was likely no cash rent income. It is unknown if they received rental income from the house in Fairview.

In the 1940 Census, Zoath, Ella, Catharine, Hellene, and Paul Host all indicated they received income from other sources.

So, the primary income sources for the three Yost children likely came from the sources below.

1. Cash rent from McLean County farm.
2. Cash rent from the Livingston County farm.
3. Cash rent from the Kansas farm.
4. Rent from the Hartshorn house in Pontiac.
5. Social Security income

CHAPTER 20

Zoath Yost Family Love of West Virginia

Deep Roots

The Yost family had deep family roots in West Virginia. Zoath Yost was the fourth generation of the Yost family to live in America.

T. C. and Catharine Hartshorn were the maternal grandparents of Hellene, Catharine, and Paul Yost. T. C. Hartshorn died in 1890, one year before Hellene Yost was born. So Hellene, Catharine, and Paul Yost never knew their maternal grandfather.

The maternal grandmother of the three Yost children, Catharine Hartshorn, lived across the street from Zoath Yost. The three Yost children likely often visited with their grandmother Hartshorn until she died in 1925.

Dr. F. H. Youst, the paternal grandfather of the three Yost children died in 1872, many years before Hellene Yost was born. Hellene, Catharine, and Paul Yost never knew their paternal grandfather.

Mary Youst, paternal grandmother of the three children lived in Fairview, West Virginia, until she died in 1925. Zoath Yost and his children likely visited their paternal grandmother in West Virginia until she died.

College Selection

Hellene Yost, the oldest of the three children, was the first to select which college to attend. She chose the Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia. This college is about 280 miles south of the Yost family home in Fairview, West Virginia. It is about a five hour drive between the two locations. Mary Youst, the maternal grandmother was still alive when Hellene started attending Randolph-Macon. It is not known why Hellene chose to attend a college so far away from Pontiac, Illinois.

Catharine Yost chose to follow her sister Hellene to Randolph-Macon. This often occurs in a family where one sibling follows another to the same college.

Paul Yost chose to attend the University of Chicago for his Bachelor's degree in Philosophy. He then chose to attend West Virginia University to get his law degree. His father, Zoath Yost got his law degree from the same college. West Virginia University is in Morgantown, West Virginia, only about 25 miles east of the family home in Fairview, West Virginia. Paul visited several West Virginia cities when he toured as a member of the college play group.

Annual Trips to Fairview, West Virginia

As adults, the three Yost children often spent their summers in Fairview, West Virginia. Catharine and Paul Yost made several paintings using West Virginia scenery. They usually spent three or four months each year in Fairview.

All three Yost children made friends with their relatives in Fairview. They likely attended the Fairview church because they left money in their wills for these churches. In the era before air-conditioning, it was likely cooler in Fairview than in the sweltering heat and humidity in Pontiac each summer.

The three Yost children likely got exposed to Fairview, West Virginia, when they visited their paternal grandmother. They fell in love with the area and then attended colleges in that area. As adults, they spent many summer vacations in the Fairview area.

CHAPTER 21

2021

Condition of the Yost House in 2023

Photographs were taken in May of 2023 of both the exterior and interior of the Yost House. These photographs are shown below.

The exterior photos start with a south facing view of the front of the home and then the photographer walked around the house in a counter-clockwise direction.

Exterior Photos



Looking south at the front of the house.



Looking south at the front porch area.



Looking south at sign in front yard.



Looking southeast at front of house.



Looking northeast at rear of house.



Standing near Vermilion River and looking south at rear of house. Fish storage tank in backyard is also shown.



Looking northwest at rear of house.



Looking north at basement stairs.



Looking west at the west side of the house.

Interior Photos









































Chapter 22

Unsolved Mysteries

Whenever historical research is performed, there are always mysteries that arise. The stories of the Yost family and the Yost House also has their share of secrets.

Were the Three Yost Children Really Descendants of Two Famous Revolutionary War Men?

Catherine Williams – Hartshorn was the mother of Ella Louise Hartshorn, who married Zoath Yost. In the obituary for Catherine Hartshorn, it states that she was the daughter of James and Catherine Williams. The obituary also states that Catharine Hartshorn was a great grand-daughter of General Williams, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. She was also a great grand-daughter of Governor Jonathan Trumbull of Connecticut.

Ancestry.com has data indicating that James Williams was born in 1813 in Kentucky and died in 1850 in Belmont, Ohio. Unfortunately, the father of James Williams (1813-1850) can not be found in Ancestry.com or any other online source.

A family tree was constructed in Ancestry.com for William Williams (1731-1811). He married Mary Trumbull (1745-1831). Mary Trumbull was the daughter of Jonathan Trumbull Sr. (1710-1785), who was the Governor of Connecticut.

Descendant generations of William Williams was added to the Ancestry.com family tree. Unfortunately, James Williams could not be found as one of the descendants. Hopefully, a future researcher will validate this important historical linkage.

How Did Ownership of the Illinois and Kansas Farms Come into Possession of the Yost family?

Various newspaper articles document the Pontiac Yost family owned a farm in McLean County about seven miles southeast of Weston, Illinois. Other newspaper articles document the Yost family owned another farm in Livingston County near Flanagan or Graymont.

The wills of Hellene, Catharine, and Paul Yost report they owned farmland in Mitchell County, Kansas. At this time, it is not known how this land came into the possession of the Pontiac Yost family.

What is the Ownership History of the 25 Acre Yost Farm in Fairview, West Virginia?

The June 5, 1922 edition of The West Virginian reported that Zoath F. Yost owned 17 acres in Big Paw Paw and owed \$2,700 in property taxes.

The same article recounted that Malinda A. Yost, mother of Zoath Yost, owned 10.51 acres in Big Paw Paw and owed \$600 in property taxes.

If Zoath Yost inherited his mother's farm when she died in 1925, Zoath would have owned about 27.51 acres in Fairview. He likely inherited his mother's house in Fairview as well.

The wills of Catharine and Hellene Yost indicated they owned about 25 acres in Fairview, West Virginia. This land included a house and the Yost family cemetery.

The details of how the three Yost children ended up owning 25 acres, a house, and the family Cemetery, are not known for certain.

Why Did None of the Three Yost Children Ever Marry?

Based upon the general population statistics of their era, all three children should have married. In a 2006 Pantagraph article, Beth Close, curator of the Yost House at that time, speculated the three children never married because the family found a lasting companionship among each other. "They had all they needed with their books, music, social network, and each other."

CHAPTER 23

Closing Thoughts

It was a very painstaking process to retype all the newspaper articles about the Yost family from the Pontiac Daily Leader and Pantagraph. This exercise really revealed how important the three Yost children were to the cultural and artistic development of Pontiac.

Hellene Yost loved to read books and then give book reviews to various civic groups. Catharine Yost loved to paint and she enriched the artistic scene by her membership in the Amitytown Painters Society and her many displays of her art work. She also promoted the idea of getting young people involved in art or essay writing by giving talks and judging various art contests. She also pitched in to help her brother Paul with the many plays he directed in the local community.

Paul Yost brought the theater to Pontiac because of his tireless efforts to direct local plays. He also involved school children in performing in plays. He also demonstrated his artistic endeavors in exhibits with the Amitytown Painters Society.

Judge Tuesburg recruited Paul Yost to help him revive the Livingston County Historical Society after it had laid dormant for 26 years. Catharine and Hellene Yost also joined and were active members of the Historical Society.

Paul Yost continued his civic generosity by donating the Yost House to the City of Pontiac after his death. His J. Paul Yost trust continues to support the maintenance of the Yost House. His trust also donates to local charities and provides scholarships to local students.

The three Yost children were able to contribute to the local community because they did not have to hold down full-time jobs. They were able to pay their living expenses using the income from their farms, the income from renting their grandmother's home in Pontiac, and the income they received from the Social Security program.

Today, several things still exist to remind us of the Yost family. The Yost House is a wonderful museum that provides current residents with a peak into what life was like in the early 20th century in Pontiac. The Yost Trust helps to maintain the Yost House and provides donations to charitable groups as well as their scholarship programs. The Livingston County Historical Society continues to be very active after Judge Tuesburg and Paul Yost revived it in 1963.

The legacy of the Amitytown Painters Society is the many paintings that still exist created by the original members. Pontiac still has an active community of amateur artists and their works are often on display at the Pontiac Community Art Center.

In conclusion, this author agrees with Bob Sear's 1991 quote that Bob always thought of the Yost family as, "the last of the aristocrats."

References

All references used in this story were identified at the point they were used in the story.

Recommended Reading

Livingston County Historical Society: It's Beginning and Some Later Updates by Dale C. Maley.

Abraham Lincoln and the Strevell Family of Pontiac, Illinois by Dale C. Maley.

Websites

Most of the rare documents found in doing research for this book were uploaded to Archive.Org. One can search that website using the search term “Pontiac + Illinois” to find these documents. All documents may be viewed or downloaded from this website.

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Author Spotlight



Dale C. Maley

One of Dale's hobbies is history, including the history of Fairbury, Illinois. Dale has written over 20 books on Fairbury and Livingston County history. He has also written over 225 history stories for the Fairbury Blade newspaper. He has given many lectures to local Fairbury community groups about the history of Fairbury. Dale is President of the Livingston County Historical Society and is Vice-President of the Fairbury Echoes Museum. Both Dale and his wife are 5th generation citizens of Fairbury.

Also by Dale C. Maley

Livingston County History Books

- Abraham Lincoln and the Strevell Family of Pontiac, Illinois
- Coal Mining in Fairbury, Illinois
- Fairbury History Stories: Volume One
- Fairbury, Illinois Book Authors
- Fairbury, Illinois in 1888
- Fairbury, Illinois in the Civil War
- Fairbury, Illinois and the 1893 Chicago Columbian Exposition
- Fairbury, Illinois, from Prehistoric Times to Modern Times
- Fairbury, Illinois in the World Wars
- Franklin Oliver – Pioneer Settler of Livingston County, Illinois
- History of Murders Committed in Fairbury, Illinois
- Honeggers of Fairbury, Illinois
- Livingston County Historical Society: It's Beginning and Some Later Updates
- The Founding of Fairbury, Illinois
- The Goudy Brothers of Fairbury, Illinois
- The Great Chatsworth Train Wreck of 1887
- The Kring Family of Fairbury, Illinois
- The McDowell Family of Fairbury, Illinois
- Walton Bros. Of Fairbury, Illinois
- William T. Stackpole of Fairbury, Illinois
- William T. Stackpole's 1849 Journey from Illinois to the California Gold Fields

